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WORLD SOCCER

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The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

SEPTEMBER 1973

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WORLD SOCCER
incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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Contents

		Page
European preview		4
European preview		6
News from Spain	*Norman Cutler*	8
News from Holland	*John Sparrow*	10
News from France	*Andre Duclos*	11
Looking at Soccer	*Brian Glanville*	12
A look at sponsorship	*Martin Tyler*	14
Personal Opinion	*Leslie Vernon*	15
Eusebio interview	*Gregory Tesser*	16
Tostao must quit		17
European Cup preview	*Arthur Rotmil*	18
Innovation, revolution and reaction	*Ken Goldman*	20
Stoke's image changes	*Eric Thornton*	21
News from Northern Ireland	*Colin McAlpin*	22
Focus on Monaco	*Jack Rollin*	24
World XI	*Eric Batty*	25
World Soccer Diary		26
Newsdesk		28
Anastasi interview	*Gregory Tesser*	29
World Cup round-up	*Eric Batty*	30
Newsdesk		33
East European Round-up		34
Hungarian news	*Leslie Vernon*	36
South American news	*Eric Weil*	38
News from USA	*Colin Jose*	40
Independiente in focus	*Eric Weil*	41
Unknown team of the year	*Eric Batty*	42
News from Italy	*Philip Evans*	44
Classified results		47
World Cup '74		48

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Banks must quit

THE decision of Gordon Banks to retire from first-class football is no doubt the right one. But it is very sad that this brilliant goalkeeper has had to bring a premature end to his career. Gordon has been a credit to the game he has served and it is heartening to know that he is to remain with Stoke City as a coach to their youngsters.

Gordon, of course, was the outstanding goalkeeper of the past decade. He was particularly superb when playing for England and a great deal of the success achieved by the national side since Sir Alf Ramsey took over—including the 1966 World Cup triumph—was due in no small part to Banks' prowess between the posts.

He had a happy knack of producing remarkable saves: against Pele in Mexico, against Geoff Hurst at West Ham and so on. He also earned the respect and admiration of his playing colleagues throughout the world; and possibly Gordon will count that as the highest accolade he won.

The new season in England is a vital one. It is a prelude to the World Cup and, if England are to qualify and do well in West Germany, the performances of key players in the next few months will be significant.

One can only hope that attendances increase rather than slump still further and that football as a whole starts to earn and receive some good publicity for a change.

Before the season had even started there was a good deal of mud-racking in the national Press. Brian Clough, never one to be out of the headlines, did himself no credit with some statements about fellow managers and it was good to learn that Liverpool, as Champions, intend setting an example this year.

Their players have been told to keep quiet after a succession of bookings for dissent last season. It's a start. Football can be such a great game without the nastiness that so often creeps in.

Front Cover

Back at Manchester City is Denis Law, one of the greatest British forwards. Denis was given a free transfer by Manchester United but obviously still has a great deal to offer to the game.

Special four page preview of

Albania

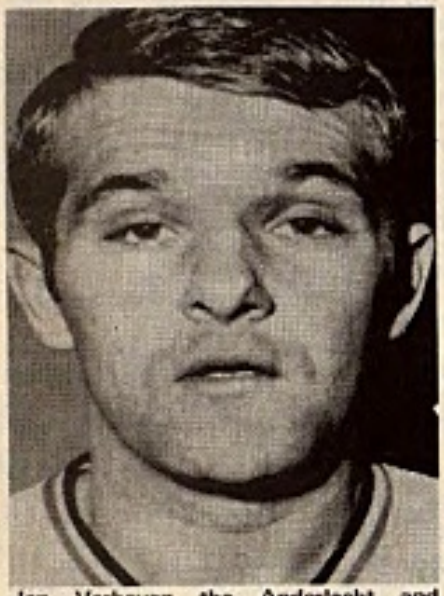
WITH the locals opting out of European competitions and, perhaps, now solely relying on communications with the outlawed Chinese, it is only the domestic issues which will have any real outside significance. Dinamo Tirana the current champions are favourites to repeat their performance with the main challenge coming from Partizan Tirana the team who prevented Dinamo from achieving the League and Cup double.

Austria

SWAROWSKI INNSBRUCK, strengthened in recent years by being amalgamated with another club, have now won the championship three years in succession. This year they also took the Cup. Their biggest rivals next term will probably be Rapid Vienna the beaten Cup finalists. But it is five years since Rapid won the League. The most successful club in the history of the competition FK Austria have fallen away badly these last couple of seasons. So little can be expected from them.

Belgium

BETWEEN 1961 and 1972 Anderlecht and Standard Liege won all the 12 League titles. Anderlecht had the edge with seven wins to five and last term beat Standard in the Cup Final. Standard themselves had to be content with runners-up position in the championship too, behind FC Bruges who won only their second championship ever. But a concerted effort by the Standard administration to regain the title has seen the arrival of a new manager Vladko Markovic and several new players. It has strengthened them considerably and ace signing centre forward Josip Bukal, a Yugoslav like his boss, looks a good bet for the honour of finishing leading scorer in the League, too. If he does he will follow in the footsteps of several other foreigners. Expect Anderlecht, Bruges and possibly Racing now combined with Daring, to be in at the kill, too.



Jan Verheyen the Anderlecht and former Beerschot forward who won a hat-trick of cup medals with these two clubs in recent seasons.

Bulgaria

THE Army club CSKA Sofia have won 17 titles since 1948 including the last three in succession. There will be pressure on them to keep up the hunt, of course, but with nine successive championships won between 1954 and 1962 they are quite capable of a further sustained challenge. CSKA seem able to ride through their rough patches and though they often drop points never appear to hit a loosing streak long enough for any of their rivals to catch up. And since most of the other sides are inconsistent, the Army club must start favourites again. Peter Jekov, the third top scorer in Europe, is there again and finished last season as sharp as he has been for some seasons. Nearest danger to them: Locomotiv Plovdiv—if they can find some consistency.

Cyprus

APOEL NICOSIA stretched their number of titles to 11 last season—the highest by a club in this island. They can expect to be hard pushed this time out by Olympiakos and Omonia, though Pezoporikos should not be entirely ruled out of the reckoning.

England

LIVERPOOL can be sure to be in the top half dozen again. They will very probably finish in the first three and could quite easily win the title again. Likely to finish in the top six are Arsenal, Leeds United (if they buy), Derby County and Tottenham Hotspur (if they buy, too). Whether Ipswich Town can maintain their excellent form of last season remains to be seen but Wolverhampton Wanderers should at least be on the fringe of the leaders. Chelsea suffered from injuries and the rebuilding programme at Stamford Bridge. They cannot possibly do as badly again. If West Ham United can maintain some consistent form they will be thereabouts as well. The unusually quiet transfer market could make for a big rush soon after the term begins. A tip for leading scorer in the First Division: John Richards of Wolves.

Ian Storey-Moore the Manchester United left winger who is hoping to have an injury free season at Old Trafford in 1973-74.

Denmark

WITH transfers abroad decimating team strengths it is often difficult to get a clear picture of what is going to happen. But Vejle who have won the last two championships are probably as good a bet for a hat-trick than any of their fellow Danes are at capturing the honour from them.

Czechoslovakia

SPARTAK TRNAVA have managed to retain their grip on the championship with five out of the last six titles going to them. And a recent friendly match in one of those many Spanish club tournaments suggests that they can keep it up for another season. In it they beat Ajax—at full strength—5-3 and though such matches are notorious for misleading information, anyone who can get five goals past the Dutchmen has little to fear in Czechoslovakia! Trnava may discover that their most persistent challengers could be Dukla Prague the Army club who were all powerful in the 1960s and won themselves five out of six titles. But there could be a bad omen in this for Trnava after all. . . .

the 1973-74 European season

Standard Liege boost chances... Ujpest Dozsa go for second hat-trick

Finland

TPS Turku, who are heading for their third successive title, will find the strongest opposition coming from Mikkelin and Lahden Reipas. These two clubs were their nearest challengers last season, too.

Hungary

UJPEST DOZSA, who have won their fifth successive title, have a young side and are quite capable of making it half a dozen in a row. The two teams who should be able to mount something of a protest to them in terms of results on the field are Ferencvaros, champions in the two seasons before Ujpest, and Vasas Budapest, winners twice in the terms immediately prior to that. Comparative newcomers Zalaegerszeg won a number of friends last term and could improve on their middle of the table berth.

East Germany

DYNAMO DRESDEN, who never really looked like being caught in the championship race last season are well suited to make it title number four this time out. They have a good all-round side—inspired by Hans-Jurgen Kreische, who finished top scorer in the League—averaging a goal a game and won himself the Player of the Year award, too. Expect Carl Zeiss Jena to give them a run for their money in second place.

Greece

OLYMPIAKOS PIRAEUS the League and Cup winners should again be well in the running for honours. PAOK Salonika, who for so long last season led the field, only to falter in the last few weeks, can again be relied upon to press them. Panathinaikos, who were badly affected by suspensions and points deducted from them will have to buckle down to the fact that altercation is no answer to problems on the field. If they can keep out of trouble they will be in with a chance, too, and AEK Athens who have big ideas will want to join them as well.

France

CHAMPIONS Nantes revived memories of their days in the middle 1960s when they took two successive titles, but they can expect a strong challenge from the big two over the past six seasons Olympique Marseille and St. Etienne. One of the features of the game in the close season in France has been that many of the expected transfers from abroad have not materialised because the big names are unlikely to be attracted and the second class can find more money in Spain now. Still Nantes are unquestionably the best footballing side in the country and if they can steer clear of trouble will be in with a definite chance again.

Iceland

KEFLAVIK who won the championship last in 1969 could recapture the title from Fram Reykjavik though the side from the Westmann Islands, Vestmannayjar could have a say in the final resting place of the honours, too.

Italy

PIPPED literally on the post by Juventus last season, AC Milan will be making strenuous efforts to gain their first League title since 1968. But Juventus could well pull off a hat-trick of successes—a feat not achieved since Torino won four titles in a row from 1946 to 1949. Milan can expect San Siro stable companions Inter-Milan to stir themselves, too. But the biggest obstacle to Milan regaining the honours seems to be in their decision to transfer Roberto Rosata and Pierino Prati, moves which they could well live to regret. And for all the defensive nature of Italian football it is one of the few major soccer countries which can report increased attendances. Last season the average was 32,700—nearly 10,000 more than the figure for 1966-67. There must be a moral somewhere in that.

Kostas Elefterakis the Panathinaikos and Greek international wing-half. His club are trying to regain honours this term after a poor finish in 1972-73.

Northern Ireland

THE troubled area of Ulster manages somehow to keep its football flag flying. Crusaders, the champions at present, could find Linfield and Glentoran two of the traditional big names and the most successful clubs in the past putting in a more sustained bid this time round.

Republic of Ireland

IF Finn Harps can maintain their incredible progress in the championship over the last few seasons they should become the champions. Runners-up last time to Waterford they could overtake their rivals on this occasion. Still Waterford, with five championships out of the last six, have built some form of invincibility in this area.

● Continued overleaf

Special four page preview of

BENFICA AIM FOR ANOTHER TITLE ...

● Continued from previous page

Zikov the Dynamo Moscow organiser who is playing a leading role in his team's bid for the Russian championship this year. Dynamo are lying fourth.

Poland

STAL MIELEC caused something of a surprise by winning the title last season with a young team. But this season you can expect that Gornik Zabrze will provide more of a problem to them. The Miners' team is unlikely to have such a poor season again so soon. Of the other prospective champions, Legia Warsaw will have to show more consistency if they want to come into the reckoning too.

Rumania

DINAMO BUCHAREST won the championship the hard way last season coming from behind to pip Universitatea Craiova on the post. They will probably make it slightly easier for themselves this time with Arges Pitesti and Steaua also back in the running as the more reliable teams in the First Division honours race.

Portugal

IT just has to be Benfica again for the fourth time in a row and heading for their 21st title. Only four different teams have ever won the Portuguese title and oddly enough the other three Sporting Lisbon, Porto and Belenenses could be in the ratings for the minor placings. However, Benfica are certainly not going to plough through the entire campaign without losing a game again and Eusebio will probably have to be content with fewer goals this season than the 40 which put him top of European marksmen.

Luxembourg

LEAGUE and Cup double winners Jeunnesse Esch could again become the top club. Their chief worriers will probably be Etzella Ettelbruck and Fola Esch, the team they defeated in the Cup Final.

Malta

FLORIANA are the present champions but they could be deposed this season by Sliema Wanderers who were the League winners in the previous two seasons.

Netherlands

AJAX, with a hat-trick of European Cup successes behind them, are on a hat-trick in the League, too. Ace Johan Cruyff is still there despite efforts by Barcelona to buy him and basically the team is still at its peak. Pressure could come from PSV Eindhoven now that they have signed the Van der Kerkhof twins from Twente and Swedish star striker, Ralf Edstrom. Eternal rivals Feyenoord, the best supported team in the country even today, will doubtless present their usual formidable challenge but none of the other teams in the League appear to have the strength that Ajax possess. The only doubt in the Ajax camp is just how new trainer Georg Knobel will go down. But the players have survived both Rinus Michels and Stefan Kovacs so there is no reason why Knobel should prove any more of a problem to them!

Jose Henrique the Benfica goalkeeper was one of the few goalkeepers anywhere last season who was not on the losing side in a League match.

the 1973-74 European season

Spain

IT would be easy to say that Real Madrid have by far the best chance. Among a host of foreigners now in the country since the flood gates opened—Gunter Netzer and Oscar Mas are certainly the most important captures and both are at Chamartin. Real, with only one title in four years in the championship, are desperate for further success. They should profit from their large outlay on their two prizes and get the reward of the League honours. But they can be sure that Barcelona and Atletico Madrid the other big guns will not let them pass through without a stiff fight. Perhaps it is a little premature to talk of a new Real on the lines of the old, but if the blend of youth and the experience now purchased can be made to work, who knows?

Switzerland

WITH Peruvian World Cup player Teofilo Cubillas signed by Basel it should be enough for them to record their third successive League championship title. Zurich beat them in the Cup Final but it would be no real surprise if Basel pulled off the double this season.

Sweden

ALREADY Atvidaberg are well on the way to recording their second successive title, the first of which was their only previous championship win incidentally. Only a dramatic loss of form will affect them being crowned again.

Turkey

GALATASARAY will be hard at it trying for title number four in succession. Having achieved a League and Cup double last season there seems little reason why not. Fenerbahce, rivals of old, will again be there but up and coming Ankaragucu might cause a surprise or two before the final outcome.

USSR

AT present with the season half-way through it is a question of Ararat Erevan the unknown Armenians holding off a challenge from CSKA Moscow the Army club from the capital. If they do manage to win through it will be their first national title.

Wales

WITH the Welsh National League not considered a senior competition it is left to the Welsh Cup to determine the leading club. Cardiff City the most senior side but only a Second Division outfit nowadays should win it again of course.

Midfield player Kazimierz Deyna the Legia Warsaw and Polish international has been on tour recently in North America with the national side.

Norway

VIKING STAVANGER appear well on the way to repeating last season's success with only Rosenborg and Hamarkam looking like outside challengers.

Scotland

BOTH Hibernian and Rangers are capable of taking the odd cups from Celtic's clutches, but neither of them appear to have the resources of strength possessed at Parkhead. These are necessary to overcome the minor abberations which plague the Celts at some time or another during the season but which invariably come right in the end. Title number nine on the trot coming up?

Yugoslavia

RED STAR BELGRADE are unlikely to be so badly hit by injuries as they were last season and they still succeeded in pulling off the League then. If they are champions again it will be their 12th title and put them twice as far ahead of their nearest rivals Hajduk Split and Partizan Belgrade. These two clubs plus OFK Belgrade are likely to prove the biggest obstacles to Red Star's ambitions along these lines.

West Germany

AS much as what will happen in the Bundesliga on the field this term there will be anxious eyes cast on the attendance figures which dropped alarmingly last season. With the World Cup finals coming up next year, perhaps the crowds will start to return to the game. Bayern Munich the championship winners for the last two seasons must be given the nod again, especially as they seem to have scooped the pool by signing midfield dynamo Jupp Kapellmann from Cologne, rated as one of the best prospects in the game. Playing alongside Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Muller should bring his game on even more. Muller who was runner-up in the European goalscoring stakes will surely finish top scorer in Germany again if all goes well but Jupp Heynckes may find that his tally will drop now that Borussia Moenchengladbach have no Gunter Netzer to prod them.

MERKEL SACKED BY ATLETICO

WHEN Max Merkel was manager of Seville he was suspended and sacked for criticism of the President and Directors. His iron-curtain, concentration camp manners and methods completely wrecked the playing side and crashed them into the Second Division.

History repeats itself at Atletico Madrid, in consequence of his declarations made recently to a German newspaper "Bild Zeitung" and because of his neglect to satisfactorily rectify his statement, as demanded by the Committee of Atletico Madrid, they accordingly began disciplinary proceeding against him.

Urgent

A telegram was sent to Merkel in Munich for an urgent correction in the same paper "Bild Keitung". As he did not reply, they sent a further cable seventy-two hours later threatening him to send the rectification or take the consequences.

As Merkel understands no other language but his own (German), his

from NORMAN CUTLER

eventual cabled reply denied having made any anti-club declaration and "how could he contradict something he hadn't said".

Strange

A strange answer considering that the article was in a German paper, and naturally he speaks German and the interview was reportedly with "Bild Keitung's" top writer. This is an old dodge of Merkel's. . . . "I didn't make the statement".

Max Merkel states that he is surprised and pained at this decision. He still insists that he does not understand what it is all about. He has never learned Spanish . . . always working through an interpreter.

Merkel has lasted three seasons in Spain . . . he is out now . . . has always been a most unpopular manager, from the first moment he spoke to the Spanish Press he dropped from the top to the foot of the ladder.

Out in disgrace after two years, two League Championships, a Spanish Cup and two votes of thanks.

Merkel's methods are: "He believes if you talk enough (and he never stops) *you will* get listened to.

Atletico's new manager is Juan Carlos Lorenzo, former manager of Real Mallorca, who was manager of the 1966 Argentine World Cup XI.

It was Lorenzo and his assistant manager, Hector Rial, who cabled me the reported statement by Alf Ramsey that "Argentines are Animals".

The old and the new . . . the former World Cup (the Jules Rimet Trophy right) and the new trophy which will be contested next year.

Famous doctor killed

SPAIN was in the middle of the Mozambique Massacre hullaballoo two weeks before Mr. Wilson startled England with alleged Press reports and accusations . . . not with reports of disappearing villages, but over the murder of a famous Spanish football doctor in the jungle by a group of terrorists.

The doctor was Don Angel Gazaizabal, born in Vitoria, a specialist in knee injuries, decorated by the Ministry of Aviation and later appointed Chief Medical Officer to Atletico Madrid.

During his career, which lasted thirty years, he performed 600.000 operations.

A feat looked upon in Spain as a record, was the speed of recovery of the Madrid players, Juncosa and Escudero, who were playing again only twenty-eight days after cartilege operations. It was this that made him famous.

He left for a Safari in Mozambique on July 1, and was attacked by terrorists near the trouble area and dive bombed while hunting and photographing. On July 4, the doctor's body was returned to Spain accompanied by his two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Enrique Osborne, who were with him on the Safari.

It was the first confirmation of the island massacre.

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THE CONTINUING SAGA OF...

Cruyff and Barcelona

JOHN SPARROW from Amsterdam

HOW much the deal would have involved, is now pure guesswork. But for sure Barcelona knew the price on Johan Cruyff's head was over £1 million!

Cor Coster, the man's father-in-law and business manager, alleged he had it in writing that Johan himself could get one million dollars for a three-year contract . . . over and above a yearly income of £20,000. On top of this he would get a six-room villa on the beach near Barcelona and free travel to and from Spain for his relatives.

And Ajax? They were not asking peanuts. Around £460,000 is the figure being quoted now.

But we're talking of what might have been. As the bizarre charade moved towards finality, the million pound body mentioned to Ajax boss Jaap van Praag: "Never mind. I won't go. I'll stay."

Later an official communique on the dramatic last minute change of heart, said Cruyff had decided to stay in the interests of Ajax and Dutch football. Somehow this was not in keeping with the boy who once declared the honour of playing for his country did not pay enough.

Price

So why did Cruyff really pull out? To those who believed no sane person would ever pay the asking price (and in fact Barcelona never mentioned a figure themselves) the reason pushed here is astounding. One is led to believe because his mother-in-law could not bear the thought of losing Johan, wife Danny and their children.

The story broke in the daily newspaper, *De Telegraaf*. Cor Coster was quoted as saying: "I told him leaving for Spain would break his mother-in-law's heart. . . ."

According to Coster, Cruyff was Barcelona bound because of an anti-Cruyff atmosphere within Ajax. But when he told Mrs. Coster she was utterly shocked. "We really thought she was dying. She was unconscious and I had to get the doctor quick," he is quoted as saying.

Coster phoned Cruyff in Spain to explain the situation. Having informed his son-in-law how Gunter Netzer's mother died of "a broken heart" on her son's departure, we read, he went on to tell him: "Ma's health cannot be bought with money."

As we know, Cruyff decided to stay. And Mr. Coster proudly declared: "As long as this dear wife is alive, Johan will never leave for another country."

Adding to this happy family scene, Mrs. Coster said: "What a terrific son-in-law giving up all this money for me. I love him."

A happy ending? Not quite—Coster went on to warn: "He is now staying with Ajax but if the anti-Cruyff mood does not disappear we will have to look for a different solution. Then Johan had better quit football or even go to an amateur club. He's got enough money now."

Session

A second player who sounded leaving noises and then stayed put, is Heinz Schilcher. The Austrian failed to show for the first Ajax training session after the summer break. Promises made to him had not been kept, he complained.

He added: "They know I want to leave here. I told them in February and they promised to co-operate. But Ajax have asked a ridiculously high transfer fee."

FC Bruges were the final club to show interest. When the talks fell through Schilcher (26) saw van Praag once more and duly signed a year's contract.

More Ajax news concerns Jan Mulder. Signed from Anderlecht in the 1972 close season for £160,000—an Ajax record—he has played hardly a game since, thanks to knee trouble. But he did turn out in a pre-season warm-up game with amateurs WKE Emmen.

He took over from right winger Johnny Rep in the second half. An easy game that Ajax won 18-0, it was an optimistic show from Mulder. His sprints, shooting power and combination work with Cruyff, were promising. After the game he said: "it went better than I expected. No trouble whatsoever. The most important thing was that I dared to go."

But ten days later he was ordered to rest for six weeks. The club doctor announced his knee still had some liquid on it. He emphasised there was no panic: "Jan has gone through some heavy training which we want to finish with a period of rest. Then I think he will be able to play a normal game again, although it's always a difficult thing to predict."

On the injured list too: Rinus Israel of Feyenoord. A pre-season game with Schalke had unlucky Israel land wrongly on his right leg and damage the knee. A cartilage operation followed meaning he will be out for several months. Certainly he will miss the Ajax game on September 22.

But the big question is will he be fit for the international against Belgium on November 18? The game could decide whether Holland reach the final rounds of the World Cup in Germany. And without doubt Israel is a vital figure.

The story is a repeat of last year. Then the pre-season game was with West Bromwich Albion; the knee, the left one; the injury, the same. As the player put it: "I heard the same crack and felt the same pain."

Ajax President Jaap van Praag.

French news

NANTES CAN DO WELL IN EUROPE

Andre Duclos

CAN we expect rather more this season from Nantes, in the European Cup, than they have given us on their previous appearances in it? We now know that their opponents in the first round will be Vejle, Denmark. We also know how disappointingly they played when up against the much less talented but much more physical Lyon, in the French Cup Final.

The resourceful and talented manager, the bald Jose Arribas, who has been running the club so competently for thirteen years, and whose son has been playing successfully in midfield, is not over sanguine. He says that while Nantes have certainly improved, the trouble is that so have foreign teams: "Which is the drama of our football. Nevertheless I believe that, at the very least, we shall save face. Remember that in our previous experiences, we were put out by great clubs; Celtic, Partizan, Tottenham."

Apart from the luck of the draw, Arribas felt that the most important thing was whether Angel Marcos, his Argentinian international forward, would be fit to play in the first European Cup match. If he were, then he was confident that Nantes would do well.

Marcos had only just joined Nantes from Buenos Aires when he played against Spurs in the UEFA Cup, a couple of seasons ago, and was not remotely, then, the man and the force that he has since become. Injured against Saint Etienne on March 23, he did not play again, but by that time he had already scored no fewer than fifteen goals in seventeen matches. If he has been playing in the Cup Final against Lyon, it might have been a very different story.

Character

Another interesting figure is the experienced centre-forward Didier Couecou, who won his third consecutive Championship medal with Nantes, the previous pair having come with Marseilles where he was in essence a star reserve. As long ago as 1966, Couecou was on the fringe of the World Cup team when playing for Bordeaux, the team with which he made his name.

He was then 22, and became known for his toughness as much as for his goal scoring. Now he is something of a reformed character, though he did blatantly punch Nantes' goal in the Cup Final, and is capable from time to time of some curious gestures. Thus, after winning the quarter final against Saint Etienne, he went off the field literally on his knees.

When he first arrived at Nantes at the beginning of last season, after a quarrel with Marseilles, he was put out. He thought he was coming to them as a new Messiah, to a club which, after all, had won nothing since 1966. Instead he found himself treated like any other player, obliged to fight for his place at centre-forward, and to train harder than he had at Marseilles. Now he realises that this Nantes training has been good for him.

After certain, stormy incidents—one of which involved a pair of shorts which he was said to have taken off and kicked, though he denies it—he settled down well. He has learned at Nantes, he says, to control himself better, and to be calmer in the penalty area. Jokingly, he says that if by any chance things go wrong, he can always put an advertisement in the paper saying: "Club seeking Championship or wishing to do well in Cup can contact Didier Couecou." Not without reason.

Just Fontaine, who has been made general manager of Paris F.C., tried to persuade his old World Cup colleague and mentor, Raymond Kopa, to make a return to football at the age of . . . 42! Wisely Kopa decided against it, though he was much tempted. Fontaine said he was convinced that Kopa could do what he had seen the veteran Yugoslav, Ivica Osim, do for Sedan.

Meanwhile, Salif Keita is on the move again. After all the fuss and expenditure over his transfer last season to Marseille from Saint Etienne, the tall, slender Malian centre-forward, who has been picked for Europe against South America next season, is moving again.

Complicated

Marseille have decided he doesn't fit their plans. Paris have wanted him for some time, but thought the price high. Alfredo Di Stefano's Valencia were prepared to pay him much more than he earned with Marseille, who wanted simply to recoup what they had spent on him. Keita, meanwhile, having gone home to Bamako for the summer, complicated matters by insisting on buying his contract from Marseille at a much lower figure than they had paid for him.

All this means that Roger Magnusson, the Swedish international outside-right, will after all be able to stay and play next season at Marseille, since he and Skoblar will be the only foreigners. The club, disappointed with its poor anti-climactic season, has bought several new players, and the team will look a good deal different.

V. Zvunka from Metz—his brother has been a Marseille star for some years—will play centre-back. Gress, who seemed such a capture when he arrived from VfB Stuttgart to play midfield, returns to his old stamping grounds of Strasbourg. The new midfield pair will consist of Buigues from Ajaccio, and Keruzore of Rennes, while the very promising Kuszowski, yet another Franco-Pole, has been signed from Nancy for the left wing.

The three promoted teams, Monaco, Troyes and Lens, are all full of hope. Ruban Bravo, the former Argentinian international centre - forward, who played against England in 1951, says he hopes to use this season to launch young French players in the side. Manager of Troyes, for whom he once played, is the 49-year-old Pierre Flamion, a distinguished French international left winger, in his day.

He has never managed a great club, but is immensely admired by the cognoscenti. Arnold Sowinski, the manager of Lens, used to play in goal for them, twenty odd years ago, and gave up in 1961 when he broke a leg. Romain Aghirudis returns from Greece to play in their attack.

FIGARO

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Kovacs, Valcareggi heroes or villai

THE managerial enigma grows stranger by the year. I have written, two months ago, of Bob Stokoe and his triumph with Sunderland, of Revie at Leeds and Clough at Derby; three North Easterners without whom their respective clubs would never have such success. Since then, however, there have been the variously puzzling cases of Stefan Kovacs, Sir Alf Ramsey and Ferruccio Valcareggi, not to mention that of Helmut Schoen and, perhaps, Bill Shankly. What principles and truths can be deduced from these; if any?

The case of Kovacs is perhaps the most elusive of the three. Until a couple of years ago, Kovacs, son of a Hungarian father and a Rumanian mother, and the scion of a distinguished footballing family, was the modestly successful manager of a modestly successful club: Steaua of Bucharest.

Suddenly, as we know, Ajax of Amsterdam, winners for the first time of the European Cup, lost their tough manager, Rinus Michels, and found themselves in need of another. They appointed Kovacs. Why?

Not even the Rumanians were sure. Trying, a year ago, to find out why from Dutch journalists, I was told that the Ajax President, Van Praag, had a friend with strong connections behind the Iron Curtain, and that the friend had recommended Kovacs.

This still does not quite solve the mystery. Was the friend a friend of Kovacs? Certainly one is entitled to say that the recommendation was an inspired one, for in the ensuing two seasons, Ajax won the European Cup twice more, added the Intercontinental Championship, and won the Dutch League for good measure.

Kovacs, it seemed, had brought to birth the team's remarkable Total Football with its attacking sweeper and endless permutations, thereby answering the tactic challenge left by Michels and his heritage, "Follow that!"

In several highly cyogent interviews, especially with French papers, Kovacs most convincingly explained his methods. Given the team and its situation, he explained, there was only one direction in which to go, and that was towards freer expression. Training was specifically changed to prepare for the new, more flexible methods. We were given to believe that beneath the surface of apparent improvisation, however, there existed a rigid tactical plan, enforced if necessary by fines or by omission.

Kovacs, it should be added, is a charming polyglot with a keenly developed sense of public relations; the very antithesis of scur Sir Alf, who only wishes that a vast hole could open, to swallow up the Press entire. Kovacs speaks excellent French, besides the three languages most Transylvanians learn to speak almost as a matter of course; Rumanian, Hungarian and German.

Summoned

At Highbury, about the turn of the season, I met Johan Cruyff, with whom I discussed the change of managers. After Michels, he said, Ajax needed a less strict manager: "And now, perhaps, the other way."

A little while later, it was announced that Kovacs had been summoned back to Rumania to take over the national team; the penalty, it appeared for success. But it also became known that the actual Rumanian team manager, Niculescu, was to be succeeded by Stanescu; Kovacs' own successor as the manager of Steaua. Kovacs, we were informed, would have the job of "super" manager. It sounded a little redundant, but we all let it ride.

Ajax, meanwhile, marched on to the Final of the European Cup once again; and Kovacs' name suddenly and bewilderingly began to be coupled with European clubs. Ajax had appointed the manager of Maastricht, George Knebel, as his successor. It was eventually made known that he would probably take over AEK of Athens; the eternal third among the

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areggi — illains?

Athenian group of clubs. What had happened to his summons home?

The European Final was played and won, many of us repaired to Belgrade, Kovacs was his charming and agreeable self, but Ajax players were heard muttering that *they* had done it all; that the managerial change had made no difference.

A further surprise awaited us. Soon after the Final, it was announced that Kovacs would take a new job . . . as team manager of France. And that is where we leave our hero; in Paris, with the far from grateful job of reviving a moribund international team whose occasional successes and glimpses of promise are almost unvaryingly succeeded by dreadful anticlimax, sour defeat.

Pinnacle

It is a very different kettle of fish indeed from taking over Ajax; a club team rather than an international one, and a club team at the very pinnacle of success.

I have no wish to impugn or minimise Kovacs' admirable success with Ajax; there it is, for all to see. The trophies stand on the sideboard. Yet we can see, yet again, how complex the position and valuation of a manager can be. Was Kovacs just lucky to be there at the time, and lucky to get away now, with the Ajax team being torn this way and that by squabbling among its members?

BOB STOKOE.

Fruition

Or did he bring to fruition a team and a tactic which would otherwise have stood still, or even fallen apart, without its original progenitor, Rinus Michels? I don't know. But I remember the words of Jesse Carver when that curious, complex but talented man was manager of Roma, and would lie sunbathing on a bench in the old Stadio Torino, after training. "*You* can't know what goes on in a club," he would say. "Nobody can." Perhaps not.

And in an international team? Not long ago, a Roman colleague of mine used to assure me, "Ramsey is *superato*, out of date, like Valcareggi." Today, as England nervously gird their loins to play Poland in October, a match that may see them eliminated from the World Cup, the criticism of Ramsey seems horribly valid; but of Valcareggi?

After a bleak beginning to the season, a depressing draw against Turkey in Naples in the World Cup qualifiers, Italy are riding high. They became, in Rome, the first team to beat Brazil for 35 matches, even if they required some help from the referee to do it. A few days later, in Turin, they won against England for the first time since the series began forty years ago, in Rome.

Assistance

Criticised for retaining his "Mexican" players, Valcareggi now seems to have found an abundance of new blood. The match against England was convincingly won without the assistance even of the talismanic Gigi Riva, who was regarded with an almost Messianic hope in 1970.

Now there are also such young newcomers as Bellugi of Inter at centre-half, Pulici of Torino as a centre-forward, while Fabio Capello has settled down comfortably in midfield, scoring controversial but valuable goals, into the bargain. The tough, blond Romeo Benetti, really a midfield player, has been extremely effective in the back four.

A reversal of events indeed for the agreeable, invariably pleasant Valcareggi, a Triestino who, after the unsuccessful World Cup Final of 1941, when he ludicrously substituted Rivera for Boninsegna six minutes from the end, he had to be hidden in the police cell at Fiumicino Airport on his return, to protect him from an incensed crowd.

How bad was he then? How good is he now? Again, it is a question one could debate until infinity; just as one could debate about Helmut Schoen.

A year ago, he seemed almost alone to have transformed the face, the very ego ideal, of West German football. Today, the team appears to lie in ruins about him. Poor team managers. Spare a thought, if not a tear, for them. A year hence, after the World Cup, who will be the new hero, who the new villain? And how long will fame or infamy last?

MARTIN TYLER looks at sponsorship

IF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL...

IF the money in football is the root of all evil, then more money may be the cure. That is the essence of the intriguing package created by Rothmans of Pall Mall and the Isthmian League for the coming season.

Apart from the invigorating boost the £20,000 deal will bring to what in 1974-5 will be the non-League rather than the amateur game, it has interesting implications for the future sponsorship of the Football League, the League Cup and the F.A. Cup. And in the context of the appalling publicity football has continually been subjected to throughout the summer, any fresh, and positive moves deserve detailed analysis.

Defensive football, a lack of goals, dirty play—all familiar chestnuts in the never-ending debates about why three million fans went missing last season. The Isthmian plan offers financial incentives to clubs who prove themselves not guilty on all charges.

Substantial

Three points for a win and prizes of £1,000, £500 and £300 for the top three sides is a substantial prod to try to win games in which a draw might have sufficed in the past. A £40 handout for every victory by three clear goals should ensure that matches which might have otherwise died at 2-0 or 3-1 maintain a further interest.

So far, the three-point win apart, the deal offers nothing for professional football that any enterprising club might not write into its players' contracts. The twist to Rothman's plan is the emphasis on good behaviour—sportsmanship through sponsorship.

Behaviour

It is not an original thought. In the 1970-71 season we had the Ford Sporting League, won consistently by Oldham, who netted £70,000 before the motor company withdrew their support. But the Sporting League had to be won, which meant that whatever happened there were only prizes for the few.

The beauty of the Isthmian scheme is that it sets standards of behaviour and rewards *every* team that attains them. And surely it is the decline in standards that is among football's problems. Any team which receives eight or more points on a scale of one point per booking and four points for a sending off forfeits its prize money and a share in the good conduct pool which is distributed at the end of the season.

In the much-quoted words of Jimmy Hill, an integral figure in the scheme's design: "No team will be able to kick their way to the top." Or, rather, if they do they will lose the kind of money that no Isthmian League club can afford to forego.

Comment

When trying to apply this concept to the Football League, it is very hard to discard the cynical comment of a leading manager, who, noting that a national newspaper was running a good behaviour table, said that he would be very disappointed if his team did not finish bottom of it.

It is here, I think, that the money does the talking. If a sponsor could be found to back a scheme that added at least a couple of noughts on to the cheques to be paid out by the Isthmian League, few League clubs would be in a position to turn their backs on the chance of winning £100,000 or more because their play conformed to laid down standards of sportsmanship.

Criterion

An immediate and valid objection to any plan that depends on bookings as its criterion is the lack of uniformity among referees. The Isthmian League have approached this side of the problem by doubling the fees they will pay their officials, a decision which is a shot-in-the-arm for those who see professional referees as the answer, implying that financial reward has a direct and positive influence on the standard of refereeing.

For the Football League and the Football Association to allow a major competition to be sponsored, there has to be a breakdown of tradition. Any business concern willing to pump funds into the tournament will certainly demand that it carries their brand name. Already plans to sponsor the League Cup have evaporated over this very point. But is their anything tainted about the Ford Football League or the Esso F.A. Challenge Cup? Surely no more than cricket's Gillette Cup and John Player League, or golf's Dunlop Masters.

Alan Hardaker has suggested in the past that such moves would threaten the "dignity of the game". But will there be any dignity left as standards decline and counting the cautions takes up as much newspaper space as who is winning the League?

Had the Rothman's package been in operation last season, several clubs would have lost their end-of-season hand out, notably Walton and Hersham, second in the League and winners of the Amateur Cup in a cynical, bruising final. Their performance this season will be a strong guide to the success of the venture. Those who know their amateur football will recognise something of the Leeds in their style of play. If the cash alters their thinking, it is not too far-fetched to suggest that more cash might alter that of Leeds and others.

Reflection

Perhaps it is a sad reflection of the times, that money has to be the incentive. But if the end justifies the means, and bickering and play-acting give way to honest competition, it will be more than well worthwhile.

As a sponsored sport, football lags behind motor racing, horse racing and golf. As the national game it offers more publicity to the investor than any of those. The money is available, so let us have it—and channel it towards the good of the game.

Now the example is there—in the backwaters of the amateur game—it will pay both businessman and football administrator to follow it with the closest attention over the next nine months.

PERSONAL OPINION

by LESLIE VERNON

Life is no bed of roses even in the idyllic Schizophrenia

SORRY FOLKS, I have to write this month's column in a hurry, because the Editor has told me that it has to be on his desk by Monday, or the latest, Thursday, otherwise he will cut out all the four-letter words (goal, foul, etc.).

I have just returned from an ill-deserved holiday on the Isle of Plight, which is in the southern half of Schizophrenia, a country situated north east of Paranoia, on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. This sport-crazy place is run by Governor Juano Pimplenos, who was elected into this high office because he once reached the second qualifying round for a place in Wimbledon proper.

As WORLD SOCCER is the country's most popular magazine, I had a pink carpet reception (the colour "red" is forbidden in Schizophrenia), and a special ceremony was held in the Old Town Hall (a new one will be built in 1992). On my way to the main hall, I noticed copies of this publication displayed in the vestibule, and when people came in to report the demise of a dear relative, they stopped for a few minutes and fortified themselves by reading an article written by Eric Batty.

Regulations

My holiday was arranged in exchange for a few immodest contributions I made to one of the local papers, which owed me eight million prolos (1,000 prolos are equal to two new pence or one old penny). The currency regulations forbids sending money out of the country for any other purpose than buying sports equipment or hand grenades, so I had to spend a few weeks on this refreshing little island.

I have enjoyed every minute of it because Schizophrenia is really a land of dreams where they have accepted most of my recommendations to improve their football. After years of wrangling between two factions, the Greedies and the Meanies, they have introduced three-up and three-down in their league football, just the compromise I suggested years ago.

Then it was announced that bookings and sending-offs would result in automatic suspensions—a constructive idea I propagated during last season, when the disciplinary system was sabotaged by cunning managers and unscrupulous players.

"A referee's decision must be final in all matters," said Juano Pimplenos in his address at the opening of Parliament, and added "even if he is Norman Burtenshaw or Christos Miches." The Players' Union took this reform badly, because they felt that their basic right to dissent and misbehave was challenged.

They quoted the Yalta agreement, the Magna Carta and the small print in an H.P. deal to prove that if a player deliberately picks on an opponent, swears at the referee, commits tactical fouls, etc., he is merely exercising his human prerogative as a member of an honourable profession.

"If the public wanted to see true sportsmen in action, they would go to watch schoolboy football," argued the elegantly-dressed chairman of the Players' Union, "but they come and support us. Doesn't this prove that we are right?" "No", I answered, using up most of the words I know in the Schizophrenian language.

National

Due to lack of automation, people only work two days per week there and spend the other five discussing their team's chances in the forthcoming national championships. The FA Committee are also slightly behind their usually hectic schedules, and they have just got round to assessing the events of the '71/72 season.

As a result of their deliberations, they fined one of the top clubs 200 million prolos plus a box of cigars for their misdeeds, but suspended the sentence saying that the team's disciplinary record might improve in the future. Since the period in question they had 25 bookings, but in the following year almost doubled that figure, reasoning seemed typically Schizophrenic. How can they improve in a future which has already passed?

A complicated problem, worthy of the talents of J. B. Priestley, who manipulates time with brilliant dexterity, or H. G. Wells, inventor of the Time Machine. However, the manager of the pilloried team was unrepentant.: "We shall continue to play attacking football," he said. A curious remark, because playing attacking football is not yet a punishable offence, and one rarely sees a player booked for scoring a goal.

Publicity

A rival manager, Byron Blunty, said that the offending club should be immediately relegated into the Second Division. A sensational suggestion indeed, which not only gave him the maximum personal publicity, but its acceptance would enhance his team's championship chances. But Blunty does mean well, and his argument that managers *are* responsible for their players' behaviour has a great deal of truth in it.

As you see, even in Schizophrenia, everything is not a bed of roses. Frank Magoo, a well-known sports-writer, introducing the coming campaign, opened his piece in the "Daily Horror" with the following words: "The season of cheating, lying, conniving will shortly begin."

I feel he went too far. There are some guilty people in football, but they are vastly outnumbered by the good ones, who genuinely love the game and try to improve it. On my return from that far-flung primitive country, the stewardess handed me an English morning paper.

The headline carried the legend: "Rodney Marsh is wanted by Queens Park Rangers." When we landed at Heathrow, I bought an afternoon edition. The main football story ran: "We have no interest in Marsh—says Gordon Jago." I felt at home, here at least things don't change—not for the better anyway!

EUSEBIO

talks to Gregory Tesser

QUESTION: As we all know, many countries in Europe and also in South America base their football strategy on defence. What is your opinion of this increasing trend in the world game?

EUSEBIO: I have never been an admirer of defence for its own sake. In fact, I am a great believer in what one of your famous English managers, Bill Shankly, once said: "That the best form of defence is attack."

Why then do you think that such talented soccer nations as Italy and Argentina have adopted this approach to the game?

I think it is all a matter of internal club politics. Leading clubs in the countries mentioned, although on paper extremely talented, have become obsessed with the idea that soccer is no longer a game in which winning is the sole objective. All they care about nowadays is avoiding defeat at all costs. In my mind — a very negative attitude!

Would you compare the Portuguese style of play with that of the Brazilians?

Yes. We both appreciate that scoring goals is what attracts supporters. This positive policy is regularly being criticised by the Press for its lack of control in defence. This may be true, but when you are in the fortunate position of having scored more goals than your opponents, why should one worry unduly about machine-like tightness in defence!

How do you rate your country's chances in the next World Cup?

I think our chances are very good indeed. Unlike the two previous World Cups, we are now blooding young players such as the very skilful Toni into our squad. This is beginning to prove to be quite successful. In fact this was borne out during last summer's Independence Cup held in Brazil when we reached the Final only to lose unluckily 1-0 against the World Champions, Brazil.

You have played against many British clubs in European competitions. Which one is your favourite?

Undoubtedly Manchester United. They have played attractive and exciting soccer for many years now and even though they have struggled for much of last season, their performance in defeating my club Benfica 4-1 in the 1968 European Cup Final was a masterly show of fluent and improvised football.

If you remember, it was a really classic game, and my own pal Bobby Charlton was at his best. I was sorry to hear of his retirement.

You have often been referred to as the European Pele. What is your reaction to this comment?

I don't believe in comparisons between players at all, even though it makes tremendous Press copy. All of us know that Pele is the undisputed king of football. And to compare myself with the "Black Pearl" is essentially something I don't particularly wish to get involved in.

Eusebio, captain of Portugal, shakes hands with Terry Neill, captain of Northern Ireland.

TOSTAO FORCED TO QUIT

OFFICIALS of the Vasco de Gama club have indicated in Brazil they would ask Eduardo Goncupves Andrade, better known as Tostao, to submit to another eye operation.

Tostao announced he had retired on the advice of an eye specialist after a series of operations for a detached retina. But the Vasco de Gama club, which paid a transfer fee of 3.5 million cruzeiros (£230,000) last year for the player have claimed that he should submit to another examination before making "a hasty decision on his retirement."

Vasco President, Agatirno da Silva Gomes admitted the club still needed to repay more than one third of the bank loan taken out to pay for Tostao's transfer.

Tostao first went to hospital in 1969 when he was operated on for a detached retina of the left eye by Dr. Roberto Abdala Moura at the Methodist Hospital. The operation was successful enough for Tostao to play in Brazil's 1970 World Cup campaign in Mexico. But he later suffered a recurrance of the eye trouble and returned to Houston for further operations.

Verdict

He underwent "reparative surgery" four months ago and flew to Houston last month to hear the final medical verdict.

Asked in a television interview what was the proudest recollection of his 13-year career, Tostao replied: "The fact that I was never sent off the field".

Tostao, the 26-year-old Crown Prince of Brazilian soccer, was the brains behind a string of Brazilian successes in the past decade. He has a reputation second only to Pele and his retirement is regarded as another body blow to an already sadly depleted team.

Medicine

A skilful dribbler and quick-witted in his passing, he has always shunned publicity and spent his spare time reading poetry and dreaming of attending university to study medicine.

He was a timid man off the field. While his team-mates competed with each other sartorially, Tostao wore the same old-fashioned clothing month after month. "I had to persuade him to buy some new clothing when he got married last year. He had hardly anything to wear," commented his mother.

His eye trouble started in an inter-club match in 1969 when he was hit in the face by the ball. Twelve stitches inserted above his eye did not prevent a blurring of his vision. "I saw the ball through a cloud of snow," he said a week after the operation.

"A skilful dribbler and quick witted in his passing"

ARTHUR ROTMIL sets the sce

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THE world's most lucrative club tournament, the European Champions Cup, will be staged this coming season for the 19th time. Just how difficult it is to win this coveted trophy can be judged from the fact, that although since 1955 a total of 193 teams have taken part, only eight clubs have so far managed to win Europe's premier prize: Real Madrid (six times), Ajax Amsterdam (three times), Benfica, AC Milan and Inter-Milan (each twice) plus Celtic, Manchester United and Feyenoord Rotterdam (once each). Real Madrid began this competition with five successive wins—now Ajax have triumphed for the past three seasons.

The interest in this annual event has remained virtually undiminished. Whilst in many countries—though contrary to popular belief not everywhere—the gates at championship matches have slumped considerably, the European Champions Cup last season produced an average of 35,123 spectators per game. This was less than the previous year, but was higher than, for example, in 1970-71, or 1966-67. When one considers that in small lands like Malta, Finland, Iceland, Cyprus or Luxembourg, gates are obviously low, then the average of over 35,000 fans, which is higher than in any European League, is quite remarkable.

Taking into account the entire tournament from 1955 till 1973, then the average crowd for a European Cup match stands at 38,300! The 997 games drew aggregate attendances of 38,185,000. This table illustrates the full development of this competition:

	No. of games	attendances	average
1955-56	29	912,000	31,450
1956-57	44	1,386,000	40,590
1957-58	48	1,790,000	37,290
1958-59	55	2,010,000	36,545
1959-60	52	2,780,000	50,545
1960-61	51	1,850,000	36,274
1961-62	55	2,315,000	42,127
1962-63	59	2,158,000	36,593
1963-64	61	2,180,000	35,737
1964-65	62	2,577,000	41,564
1965-66	58	2,112,000	36,431
1966-67	65	2,248,000	34,584
1967-68	60	2,544,000	42,400
1968-69	52	2,056,000	39,540
1969-70	63	2,345,000	37,222
1970-71	63	2,124,000	33,714
1971-72	63	2,396,000	38,000
1972-73	57	2,002,000	35,123

The Champions Cup is, in fact, twice as popular as the other European tournaments, the Cup Winners Cup or the UEFA Cup. The former competition last season produced an average of 17,680 spectators, whilst the latter drew 16,855 per match. It means, therefore, that the average attendance in the Champions Cup of 35,123 was higher than in the other two contests put together! It is one more proof just how popular and indeed how lucrative this tournament has become with the European soccer followers. And this table shows the twelve most successful clubs in the Champions Cup:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Real Madrid	103	64	13	25	276-118	
Benfica Lisbon	74	40	15	19	174-86	
Ajax Amsterdam	49	30	9	10	90-51	
Celtic Glasgow	44	26	8	10	88-36	
Manchester United	41	26	7	8	100-45	
AC Milan	44	26	5	13	116-59	
Inter-Milan	41	23	10	8	64-30	
Dukla Prague	37	19	8	10	67-49	
Feyenoord Rotterdam	33	18	8	7	78-35	
Standard Liege	32	20	1	11	55-33	
CSKA Sofia	42	16	8	18	71-71	
Gornik Zabrze	31	17	3	11	52-45	

Only three former winners have qualified for the current tournament, namely Ajax (the holders), Benfica and Celtic. These clubs, together with nine other contestants were seeded in the first round. The European Union decided on the following method of selection: Clubs from countries who have reached the semi-finals of the last European Championship, plus clubs from countries who were semi-finalists in the last World Cup and in addition, clubs who have reached the semi-finals in any European competition within the past five years.

Thus the draw separated nearly all leading contenders, but nevertheless it still produced some interesting pairings and served at the same time as an appetiser for the next rounds, which are calculated to ensure some tremendous clashes. Among the 31 competing clubs, the Cup holders Ajax were given a bye in the first round.

At least three ties should be closely fought: **Juventus Turin v. Dynamo Dresden.** The Italians, last year's finalists, will not underestimate the well drilled East Germans who, on their day, can be a match for anybody. Juventus boast a number of fine young players and the general opinion is that the best is still to come from the "zebras".

Attractive

Red Star Belgrade v. Stal Mielec (Poland) could also be close. The Yugoslavs, one of the most attractive footballing sides in Europe, will find the new Polish champions a tough proposition, moreover as they are likely to miss their star forward Dragan Dzajic and top defender Petar Krivokuca. The Poles have won the title for the first time in their brief history and they won't go down without fighting, on this, their first venture in a European tournament.

Fairly evenly balanced is the tie between **CSKA Sofia and Svarovski Innsbruck.** The Bulgarian Army team are experienced campaigners, making their 12th appearance in this competition. But they will be fully extended by the three - times - in - a - row Austrian champions, now managed by the wily German "Zapf" Gebhardt and sponsored by the famous optical firm of Svarovski.

Champions

Liverpool have the easiest passage and must dispose of Jeunesse d'Esch. Luxembourg's record champions (12 titles) have greater experience in this contest, this being their eighth attempt to Liverpool's third, but only twice previously—in 1959-60 and 1963-64 — did they manage to reach the second round.

Their most talented players are goalkeeper Rene Hoffmann (31), who holds 36 caps, defender Robert Da Grava (28) with 7 caps, plus forwards Jean-Pierre Hoffmann (26) on 18 caps and Dominic Di Genova (31) who has 8 caps. Whilst the general standard of football in Luxembourg is low by comparison, they have shown themselves on occasions capable of sensational results,

Liverpool full-back Chris Lawler will be engaged in European competition this season.

like in 1961 when the national team beat Portugal in a World Cup qualifying tie by 4-2, or as in the last European Championship, when Luxembourg held Yugoslavia to a 0-0 draw away from home!

But their clubs, mostly strictly amateur, are handicapped through the departure of their best players who join professional clubs in neighbouring countries like Germany, France and Belgium.

Jeunesse who came from the small town of Esch-sur-Alzette, own a ground which holds only 11,000. The game v. Liverpool might be switched to the City stadium in Luxembourg which has a capacity of 18,000.

Other "bankers" in this round include Germany's Bayern Munich, who should account for Sweden's representatives Atvidaberg, now deprived of their best forwards, Roland Sandberg and Ralph Edstroem, both joining professional clubs in

re for the 1973-74 European Cup

AX CHASE AL RECORD

West Germany and Holland respectively. Bayern on the other hand are strengthened by the acquisition of international utility player Jupp Kapellmann, plus the knowledge that their redoubtable striker Gerd Muller, who rejected a bid by Barcelona, has decided to stay in Munich.

An easy task confronts **Celtic**, for the eighth time here, who should have no problems with Finnish champions **TPS Turku**. But there could be trouble for those old hands **Benfica**, making their 13th appearance in this contest, against the ambitious and often tough Greeks from **Olympiakos Piraus**.

From Eastern Europe the qualifiers should also include the Russian newcomers to this tournament, **Sarja Voroshilovgrad**, who must beat **Apoel Nicosia** (Cyprus); **Dynamo Bucharest**, their seventh attempt, strongly fancied to sweep out **Crusaders** (Belfast), **Ujpest Dozsa** making their fifth entry, who carry too many guns for the other Irish contestants **Waterford**, and **Spartak Trnava** (Czechoslovakia) are clearly too powerful for **Viking Stavanger** of Norway.

From Western Europe three teams who in the past have struggled among the "big boys", now have a real chance of reaching the Second Round: The newcomers to this elite, **FC Bruges** (Belgium) should advance at the expense of **Floriana** (Malta); **Nantes** (France) look too strong for **Vejle** (Denmark); **FC Basel** (Switzerland) must surely dispose of **Fram Reykiavik**, who are making their debut here. Finally **Atletico Madrid** step out of the shadows of their illustrious local rivals Real once again, and should overpower the Turkish challengers Galatasaray Istanbul—even though they are managed by *World Soccer* contributor Brian Birch!

The dates for the various rounds are as follows:

1st round: September 19 and October 3; 2nd round: October 24 and November 7; Quarter-finals: March 6 and March 20; Semi-finals: April 10 and April 24; Final: May 15.

Derby County.—Back row, left to right: Jimmy Gordon (trainer), Peter Taylor (Assistant Manager), Terry Hennessy, David Nish, John Simms, Graham Moseley, Colin Boulton, Ronnie Webster, Peter Daniel, Colin Todd, Brian Clough (Manager). Front row: Steve Powell, Rofer Davies, John McGovern, Archie Gemmell, Roy McFarland, John O'Hare, Alan Hinton, Allan Durban, Kevin Hector.

INNOVATION, REVOLUTION AND REACTION

by KEN GOLDMAN

IN recent weeks there have been many statements on where the game should be going and aspirations have proliferated. However, two such statements in particular leave one to speculate on what might happen and why it might not.

Firstly, Dr Roger Bannister, the chairman of the Sports council, giving an address at the opening of the new £200,000 astro turf all-weather football pitch at Mabley Green, Hackney in London's East End in January of 1973, expressed a hope that Football League clubs would consider such pitches in this the "sport for all" year.

Now, ever since West Ham played on the synthetic pitch at the Houston Astrodrome a few seasons ago and showed favourable reaction, there has been considerable interest in laying and playing on such artificial turf with the very successful Market Street, Islington pitch layed by Monsanto (incidentally, the first in Europe and now with Mabley Green making the only two in Europe), hope is again being expressed that we shall see League Clubs and others in professional football utilise such pitches.

Benefits

The benefits are obvious and have been several times particularised but a few of such benefits are still worth repeating.

Firstly, the wear and tear is considerably less, leaving pitches to be used longer. Secondly, ease of drainage means that there will be less match postponements. Thirdly, such pitches could be enclosed by stadia as air drying is virtually unnecessary, so that spectator comfort can be improved, and if financial doom is threatened one or more clubs could, subject to League permission, use the same pitch on alternate weeks or mid-week.

The remaining benefits, attributes and criticisms of the playing surface I leave to others since I am only seeking here to mention the various examples as background material to the points at issue.

Artificial

Having reached this far then it is understood that certain League clubs have been more than willing to consider artificial pitches but that, at some time in the recent past when an approach was made to a particular stadium to lay such a pitch, the scheme was shelved because rugby matches were played there as well and the handling code rules are geared to place kicks being dug into the turf which could not be accommodated by either the backing or composition of the present synthetic grass.

Thus, football revolution was overborne by reaction and there can be presently no synthesis synthetic or otherwise. There is one ray of hope in that it is gratifying to know that the Sports Council is undertaking both an economic and a social study over a period of a year into the use of synthetic sports pitches in high population areas. In relation to football, however, are we to have a swing away from the old addage of example from the top?

The second statement was made by Mr Alan Hardacre of the Football League and concerns the use of the sin-bin type of punishment scheme adopted in ice hockey which would involve players being sent to the side lines for perpetrating fouls of a nature which deserve the short, sharp rebuke rather than the more lasting variety involved in permanent banishment from the field.

Discipline

A case can, of course, be made out for both having and not having "sin-bins" so far as discipline is concerned, but it may be profitable to list some advantages. Firstly, when the transgression is committed then is the time when tempers are hot and when the axe should fall. Usually within a few moments the players have relented and are sorry.

However, once sent-off as at present they miss the rest of the game; their team suffers and the administration has pressure put on it by the number and frequency of such cases. The Disciplinary Commission have to try to set a fair balance between one sending-off and another and so there has this last season been the anomalous situation of some players being suspended for three games while others have had the dismissal treated as punishment enough.

Much of this ambiguity could be avoided if instant punishment were introduced for certain types of offences much in the way that parking obstruction and lighting offences are dealt with by the law of the land on a summary basis.

The reaction steps in, however, when the authorities who govern the game overall, from park pitches to football league throughout the world indicate that "sin-bins" are inappropriate because facilities are not sufficient to keep the sent-off player warm, cool, dry or whatever in most places in the world. For example, you might not keep the sun off him on an open space in Egypt or the snow in Iceland, etc.

Competition

The basis being that if the laws of the game are to be changed they should be changed for everyone. With all respect, however, I do not think this has to be. It would be quite feasible to make such sin-bins appropropriate to only certain competitions such as those of major League Cup matches in all countries and in the World Cup competition.

After all, when County Cricket in this country altered its "no-ball" rule or its leg-side fielder limitation, on the public parks they carried on as before. There is also no league competition I know following the totting-up principle of Football League discipline, nor were the criteria laid down to English League referees two season ago meant for the junior game.

No, let us get on with the game and try out some revolutionary ideas which do not affect the laws themselves. Let us by all means have synthetic pitches and "sin-bins" now for everyone realises these things will be held in the end, so what is the point of burying heads in the natural grass or cloying mud on which our games are presently played.

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Stoke's image changes

WHEN I was a soccer-mad boy, with personal ideas about the game, wild horses would not have dragged me into Staffordshire to watch the football played by Stoke. Not if someone had given me a free ticket for the stand (writes ERIC THORNTON).

Even when a group of ambitious persons added the "City" tag to the title of these Old Originals of the Football League, and I felt slightly more disposed towards them after reading Arnold Bennett, the prospect of a visit to that part of the world remained unattractive.

It should not have been so, really, because in the period sandwiched between the wars, Sir Francis Joseph, erstwhile President, hosted many pleasant and private little ceremonies in the boardroom at the top of the stairs. I have a pair of beautiful musical drinking mugs to prove it.

In those days, of course, the club was struggling. Enthusiasm was low. Crowds were depressingly thin. And my old friend Frank Swift always used to swear that the dressing-rooms were the coldest in Britain, with their smoking paraffin stoves.

Gradually, however, their image has improved. Memories of the Second and Third Division are fading. The Victoria ground has become more impressive. Gone are the days when they managed to survive only by buying other folk's cast-offs, and selling their own promising youngsters.

Now today Stoke City count. They have the cash to compete with the big boys in the transfer market. Even in £200,000 deals. And, having ended 108 years of trophy famine by winning the League Cup two seasons ago, they are aiming for a first triumph in the FA Cup.

How come? What's the explanation for such a remarkable transformation, and the virtual writing of a rags-to-riches story? Elementary, my dear Watson. The change of fortune can be traced to one man—Tony Waddington.

Here's a personality who knows the game tactically, and, additionally, possesses the skills so necessary for moulding together widely differing characters into one winning unit, and with such clear obeisance that his word is never queried.

Yet he was almost unknown during playing days with Cinderella club Crewe Alexandra, for whom he was still operating when a career that was then stretching ahead was suddenly cut short by a knee injury which still troubles, and limits track suit performances.

A topical subject, just now. Because this man who always insists he has no time for kickers, has reached a particularly important stage of life—the twenty-first year as a loyal servant of the Potteries outfit.

Glance back, and you'll easily guess the start was tough, when, after such men as Bob McGrory and Tom Mather had departed from the scene, Waddington climbed into the hot seat to manoeuvre a new future without much money in the till.

Stoke City manager Tony Waddington.

But he gradually recruited extra support while moving the club away from the brink of bankruptcy, and set everybody talking with remarkable buys, at a time when most other bosses were merely moaning about the inadequacy of the cheque book.

Reviewing those days in retrospect, Tony recalls how it was vitally necessary to know exactly what they were doing, and, though some of the signings were not actually ball players they were, nevertheless, class players.

It's a fantastic list. I've no doubt you'll agree when I gently jog the memory this way—Jackie Mudie, Dennis Viollet, Stanley Matthews, Jimmy McIlroy, Peter Dobing, Roy Vernon, George Eastham, Eddie Clamp, Eddie Stuart, Gordon Banks, and so on.

The move that brought Matthews home again was the most sensational, though I believe the best transfer venture was the one which landed World Cup and England goalkeeper Banks. For, at 28, his experience and personality had a tremendous effect for the good on younger members of the staff.

Tony rules over a happy family. A friendly, warm - hearted individual, he proved it by handing free transfers to such as Alex Elder, Harry Burrows, and Willie Stevenson, this summer, so that they could negotiate their own terms with interested clubs.

On the other hand, there is toughness when the occasion demands—i.e. during the interval of a game with Manchester City. That was when he said to the boys: "You're walking about as if you're just not interested in the game, and you'd better get out now and start winning that ball and winning the match". They did!

COLIN McALPIN reports a ray of hope in N. Ireland

New seaso some glori

IT would be true to say, particularly of recent years, that the start of a new Irish League season is viewed by many with mixed feelings. There is the obvious delight at the return of the ball game but it is coupled with the general anti-climatic fear that things will be as bad as ever.

You have no real idea of the problems involved in keeping an entire-league going in the face of underlying civil unrest which brings the obvious decline in attendances and general apathy. In Northern Ireland, unfortunately, folk simply have other, more pressing, things on their minds than the outcome of the Ulster Cup or the County Antrim Shield. It's a great pity. If for no other reason than the brief escape a game offers we should be packing the grounds as never before.

Brilliant

But the new season has dawned and, whisper it softly, dawned in a blaze of glorious football. There is an increase in attendances, the football itself has often been quite brilliant, there is a great deal of money from sponsors and there is the promise of a return to the Province of European soccer.

It began with the excellent Carlsberg Special Brew Cup, a £5,000 pre-season knock-out competition for the 12 senior teams and four junior clubs.

And not only did Carlsberg provide the cash for the clubs, always welcome, but they threw in a £50 bonus for the top referee of the tournament and a £600 luxury cruise to Copenhagen for the top player.

The football was nothing if not fantastic. Crusaders, firmly settled into the League Champions throne, thundered to the final with a 5-1 win over Dundela, a 7-0 thrashing of Distillery and a fine 2-1 victory over the holders Portadown.

In the final they met the equally formidable Ards who had disposed of Ballymena United (5-0), Irish Cup holders Glentoran (4-2) and Linfield (3-1) and provided us with a game we had all been waiting for.

On the strength of seven goals in three games, plus his continued brilliance as a striker, Crusaders' Tom Finney was transferred to English Second Division Luton Town for £20,000 after the final. And at 20, with everything a striker needs by way of build, stamina, skill and enthusiasm, Tom looks to have a great future in the game. For Luton it was a good purchase.

What, then, of the immediate future? What have the 12 senior sides to recommend them to the paying public?

Ards, with the added strength of Ron McAteer and Des Cathcart (signed before the start from Linfield), will certainly be in the hunt for major honours. They needed Ron and Des to add weight to a forward line that was always dangerous but not always as dangerous as it should have been. In that attack there is Billy McAvoy and Denis Guy, prolific scorers, who are backed by a pretty solid-looking defence in which the ageless Billy Humphries continues to shine. For once the Castlereagh Park club looks to have all-round strength and I'd be surprised if they didn't win one of the big trophies.

They meet Standard Leige in the EUFA Cup and certainly look to be going places.

Bangor, the County Down neighbours of Ards, have a young team under one of the best managers in the business. Berti Neill has had to start from the bottom in team-building and if they don't really appear to be experienced enough at the moment to collect a prize you can be sure they will cause more than their share of upsets along the way.

The problem for Bangor, as it will be for several other clubs, remains in holding some of those youngsters. I'm thinking particularly of players like Brendan Tully who continue to attract cross-Channel interest.

Ballymena United, under Arthur Stewart, are another side of youngsters. Arthur must await the outcome of English interest in striker Paul Kirk and the return from Canada of Bobby Averill before he can settle down to the laying of firm foundations. Arthur himself admits United won't win the title but promises fireworks until they do.

First-ever

Last season Coleraine looked all set to pick up their first-ever title. They were tucked behind leaders Crusaders with a couple of games in hand. But, in a manner which has become all too familiar for Bertie Peacock's team, they blew it in the end and must now start to pick up the pieces.

Alas they had to start the season without a couple of experienced players, one of which was Des Dickson whose consistent goal-scoring brought him a couple of international caps last season, and had their limitations exposed.

Without being too unkind I do feel Coleraine's present squad is too old, too set in its ways, to improve. An influx of new blood, which currently isn't obvious, might help matters.

They will remain a threat for they are still, shortcomings included, a fine side. But more new faces would certainly assist.

Cliftonville, now a professional club which still cannot find the money to pay its players, will have to continue to struggle. Manager Kevin McGarry claims, with

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n dawns with ious football

some justification, to have the youngest pool of players in the game but that's not to say youth will find a way. There simply isn't enough talent at Solitude to ring the changes.

Crusaders, on their initial showing, must be considered the best bet for the new season. The loss of Finney can be overcome by a forward line that sparkles with class.

And in mid-field there remains the brilliant John McPolin, John Flanagan and Walter McFarland. For manager Billy Johnston the headache is in keeping his side together . . . scouts are fighting for a place on the terraces as players of the quality of Laurie Todd show how the game should be played.

Crusaders will meet Dinamo Bucharest in the European Cup and such is the wealth of talent in the club that Johnston loses no sleep whatsoever at the departure of Finney. He merely calls in yet another reserve and watches his name go into the books of scouts.

Distillery, who share Seaview with Crues since their own ground fell foul of the civil unrest, still look for a new home of their own. Currently they are considering three possibilities and see this as their main objective.

Until then it must be a matter of holding the fort as best he can for manager Jimmy McAlinden and his assistant Roy Welsh. If the Whites have lost key men like Martin Malone, Peter Watson and Martin Donnelly they still have Steve McMurtry, Colm McCrory, Sean Quinn and Cyril Hewitt . . . though they too look set for cross-Channel futures.

Revived

Glenavon had a period of promise last season when they climbed among the League pacesetters. They faltered towards the end, revived for a Cup semi-final place and faltered again. It could be the pattern for this season for there is not a great deal of experience in the team. The hope lies with new-signing Phil Scott of Linfield and a collection of willing, young players.

Last season George Eastham said he wasn't too happy about his overall playing strength. And though Glentoran won the Cup in fine style he hasn't really improved his staff.

Players like Johnny Jamison and goalkeeper Allan Patterson have the quality but George would, I'm sure, like to add to a fairly small list of potential medal winners before chasing honours with more than mere hope.

Glentoran meet Chimia Rimnicu Valcea in the Cup Winners' Cup and as their Rumanian opponents are a little-known Second Division side might be in the next round with a bit of luck.

Linfield, even though they have Terry Cochrane and Billy Millen up front, look as if they lack real finishing power. The Blues, if only by tradition, can never be dismissed out of hand and under coach Billy Sinclair, who worked a remarkable revival at the end of last season, will certainly be a team to watch. They will continue to build on last term's revival but, somehow, I cannot fancy them strongly.

Reasonable

Larne, new to the senior grade last season, finished at the bottom of the table. They were allowed to do so by supporters and press quietly on the reasonable grounds that a junior team, thrown into senior football without much prior warning (they took the place of Derry City), should be left alone to work out their own salvation.

This season they have a new manager in Sandy Shields but very little in the way of new players. They held Coleraine to a narrow 1-0 margin in a Carlsberg defeat and showed that all is not quite lost.

Sandy, full of enthusiasm and good intentions, simply wants time to consolidate. Time, alas, isn't in good supply in football and this season we shall expect much more from Larne. Whether they supply what we desire or not remains to be seen.

A rival manager, watching the early games of Portadown, described them as "positively brilliant" . . . and then saw his own team tear them apart with casual ease. He still sticks by that original view and though Ports did not live up to it they do have enough going for them to join Ards and Crusaders as the teams to beat.

Manager Gibby McKenzie is still turning up exciting new talent, still blending youth and experience and if he can overcome his problem of having a hard-working team produce the goals they throw away he'll certainly be worthy of a healthy respect.

Club Focus on MONACO (France)

Just like old times for this unique club

'Yvon Douis proved an able acquisition to the attack in an unchanged side'

by JACK ROLLIN

IT'S quite like old times with Monaco back in the French First Division. Actually they were in it two seasons ago but so briefly that one prefers to forget the occurrence and recall only the halcyon days of the 1960s when the Principality became famous for a third feature, the other two being of course: the Monte Carlo Casino and Prince Rainier.

And since she gave up the Hollywood bit and became Princess Grace, the shy ex-bride of High Noon etc., there has been another great attraction and one which should be placed first under the list of credits. The marriage of Prince and Princess has helped rather than hindered the football team.

While the Prince has long been a keen and devoted follower of the game he has succeeded in converting the former Miss Grace Kelly into an addict. And to their eternal credit they have supported the club physically as well as economically even during the less successful times recently. Without the cash thus injected into AS Monaco, the little team would have gone under long ago.

Unique

Moreover, it would never have won the French First Division or the French Cup or represented the country "next door" in the European arena. For unique Monaco is a state of its own without citizens. All the players are foreigners but at the same time the country is outside France. Their success a decade or so ago was such to spotlight the awful plight of the game in France.

This is no way detracted from Monaco's achievement but the position tended to ridicule the situation in France where they could find no champion but had to leave it to a one-club country existing through the benevolence of its wealthy patron.

The story of Monaco really started in pre-war days. As an amateur club they made an abortive entry into the realm of professionalism playing in the Southern Section of the Second Division during 1933-34. But after finishing third in the eight club league they resigned after difficulties.

Appearance

Their next appearance was in 1948 when Avignon dropped out of Division Two and Monaco took the plunge again. Things went better for them this time and after finishing a respectable eighth, fell away to 16th and then had two terms in fifth place. But 1952-53 was the breakthrough. Monaco were runners-up only a point behind Toulouse. Palluch scored 22 of their 88 League goals and they were promoted.

In the First Division they finished 10th with Henri Skiba leading their scorers with 14 goals. They did drop to 14th the next term but in 1955-56 they ended in third place only two points behind the champions, Nice.

It was enough of a reminder to the other clubs that Monaco had to be taken seriously. Conti, the Argentinian, was leading scorer with 16 goals and in 1956-57, though they fell two places, had established themselves. In 1957-58 they were third again and it prompted a Riviera senator to declare that it was inadmissible for a foreign club to represent France in a competition of such importance as the European Cup.

In the next two terms Monaco were eighth and fourth but in 1960 they realised the senator's worst fears. They won the French Cup, beating St Etienne 4-2 after extra time. Fortunately, the Cup Winners Cup was just in its infancy and no entry was forthcoming from France, but in 1960-61 season Monaco did even better, winning the French championship for the first time.

Average

Their team cost a small fortune by contemporary standards—£166,500—and since the tiny picturesque Stade Louis II ground held 12,000 and attracted an average of only 3,000 it was understandable that subsidy was the reason for Monaco's continued existence.

Goalkeeper Yvan Garofalo cost £9,500 from Montpellier; left back Marcel Novak £13,000 from Lyon; right back Raymond Kaelbel £15,000 from Strasbourg; centre half Francois Ludo £8,000 from Lens; right half Michel Hidalgo £11,500 from Reims; left half Henri Biancheri £15,750 from Angers; outside right Andre Hess from Metz £20,500; inside right Lucien Cossou £28,500 from Lyon; centre forward Serge Roy £8,000 from Besancon; inside left Theo £26,000 from Lens and outside left Bert Carlier £11,500 from Holland.

In Europe the next term they gave Glasgow Rangers a run for their bawbees but lost both legs 3-2. And domestically Monaco had to be content with sixth place. It was but a temporary setback for in 1962-63 they regained their championship win with Cossou finishing second highest scorer in France with 28 goals.

Acquisition

The defence had a couple of new faces and Yvon Douis proved an able acquisition to the attack in a basically unchanged side. And they did the double with the taking of the Cup. The next term they did well again to finish second and in the European Cup could at least say that they were beaten by the eventual winners, Inter-Milan.

The next four seasons saw Monaco finish 12th, 13th, 14th and 11th—some consistency here—but the best years were ending and in 1968-69 they were second from bottom and relegated. They could only manage to get eighth place in the lower division but in 1970-71 were top of the South section of the League and won their place back in the elite. The Cameroun-born Emmanuel Koum led the goalgetters with 20.

● Continued on page 37

WORLD XI

selected by Eric Batty

JENNINGS (Tottenham and N. Ireland)

KRIVOKUCA (Red Star & Yugoslavia) HULSHOF (Ajax & Holland) MOORE (West Ham & England) STEPANOVIC (OFK Beograd & Yugoslavia)

BECKENBAUER (Bayern Munchen & W. Germany) NETZER (Real Madrid & W. Germany) KUNA (Spartak Trnava & Czechoslovakia)

LUBANSKI (Gornik Zabrze & Poland) MULLER (Bayern Munchen & W. Germany) DZAJIC (Red Star & Yugoslavia)

FOLLOWING the accident to Gordon Banks, it could have been a problem finding a world-class goalkeeper to replace him. England—by some strange quirk that is a fascinating line of thought on its own—have never been short of good goalkeepers. Outstanding goalkeepers, however, have frequently been in short supply . . . even in England. Good but not great is how one can describe many of them.

Amongst contemporary continental goalkeepers there are few that really stand up to examination, the Germans, surprisingly, have often been short of a top-class goalkeeper and too many are adept at reaching the ball but not so keen (or able) to take it firmly and hold on to it. Though Italy's Dino Zoff is highly rated he seems to me to lack utter reliability. In my view only two continental players in this position bear comparison with Pat Jennings—Van Beveren of PSV Eindhoven and Piot of Standard.

Attacking full backs have become all the rage in recent years yet with one or two exceptions—Cooper of Leeds, for example—they are generally the same old full back merely encouraged to move upfield and make crosses. Asking defenders to attack demands more than enthusiasm or willingness as epitomised by Hughes of Liverpool but requires the class and skill of an old-fashioned inside forward.

Brilliant

The Germans, Breitner and Vogts are exceptionally good while Brazil's Marco Antonio showed up well, too. But Breitner appears to have lost something in the past year and Vogts is intelligent and constructive (as well as being a good defender) without having class.

The outstanding pair of full backs I saw last season were the Yugoslavs Peter Krivokuca, who was good at Wembley and brilliant for Red Star against Tottenham, and Dragoslav Stepanovic, who was superb in the 1-1 draw with England at Wembley.

This is the prototype for the complete fullback: good defenders who can jockey, tackle and intercept; good in the air and confident in one against one situations, yet once in possession they blossom into skilful ball playing creative players.

Barry Hulshof and Bobby Moore, who complete my back four, are not quite in the same mould. I hesitated a long time over Hulshof because while there are a lot of good stoppers there are too many of the same calibre. Hulshof gets my vote for the confidence and frequency with which he goes forward and his willingness to go all the way and shoot.

Moore, of course, is another type altogether. Used by England as a night-watchman charged with seeing that no one steals the England goalposts he is never allowed to express his full range of talents. That can only be seen at club level. Nevertheless he brings a sense of timing and anticipation into the game that the middle of the defence that is equalled only by Beckenbauer (and perhaps later by Luiz Pereira).

Though Moore has his critics he *could* if he looks after himself be good enough to play as he does for England until he is 50 and I wouldn't dream of wasting Beckenbauer at the back.

My midfield typifies my conception of the game. Here I utterly reject the "ball winners" though I insist that Franz Beckenbauer, Gunter Netzer and Ladislav Kuna "win" almost as many balls as the crunchers but by other less obvious means.

Once in possession they can do it all; run at defenders; exchange quick accurate passes, "flight" their way round or over or through the best organised defences with passes that curl and dip. They also go forward to shoot . . . and score goals which is what the game is (or rather should be all about.

Mid-field

Others that I considered for the mid-field roles did not include people like Ball (Arsenal), Nesskans (Ajax) and Overath (Koln) who are much capped and very popular in other eyes.

My learning takes me towards West Ham's Brooking and the Borussia Monchengladbach pair Wimmer and Danner though I left them out for two reasons. They may well be included in the future but at the moment though all highly skilled and versatile they cannot compare with my trio and would also probably be unknown to readers in Finland and Fiji.

The front players gave me more headaches than usual for many of the established spearhead stars are currently performing below their best. For their own various reasons, players like Eusebio (Benfica), Cruyff and Keizer (Ajax) have all performed way below their potential when I've seen them in the last twelve months.

If Italy's Luigi Riva had been a right-sided player he would have received my nomination and another Italian, Anastasi, was carefully considered. However, and perhaps this is significant, the trio I finally decided on were all seriously injured during the season. In fact both Lubanski and Dzajic were out of action at the end of the campaign, Lubanski having been plagued by injuries and Dzajic having a broken leg.

Gerd Muller played through a critical period last season with a hair line fracture in his leg while Lubanski spent much of the season on the treatment bench.

Accuracy

Dzajic is a legitimate left winger and sufficiently skilled to be able to play as if the opposition didn't have a right back at all. Muller and Lubanski on the other hand were born to score goals though neither of them possesses an Eusebio type shot. Indeed they get most of their goals through accuracy rather than power and most come from close in.

Their assets are the ability to time their runs into the goal and penalty areas; their running off the ball and perhaps above all in these days of ruthless defenders, sheer courage. Perhaps that's why they get injured so often and it's certainly one reason why they are in my team.

GERD MULLER.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY.

Muller loses weight... Zapiv on...Jekov joins 'exclusive' s Brazil need Pele... Netzer wi

Franz Beckenbauer, the only West German player to be rated as "world class" in a recent assessment by the Kicker Sportmagazin.

THERE'S nothing like worry for losing weight. It's a much surer way of shedding those extra ounces than trying to diet. Gerd Muller can vouch for it anyway. He has had a continual problem of trying to keep his chunky frame into reasonable proportions, but recent events appear to have at least temporarily solved his problem.

On return from his holiday in Italy he discovered that he had lost half a stone in weight. Poor food? Too much Dolce Vita without eating? Perspiring on the beach without replacing lost saline? No, it was that during his holiday the business of Barcelona trying to sign him came along.

At first Gerd himself refused the offer, bearing in mind that he has a contract with Bayern Munich until 1975. But when the Spanish club kept upping the ante poor Gerd started to realise that there was a lot of money being dangled in front of him. Eventually he decided to try to get his release. But the German F.A. were not keen to lose him so they put a block on the move.

And when little Gerd returned home and got on the bathroom scales . . .

The name of Bibiano Zapirain will not be completely familiar to everyone. In fact apart from the Latin American continent and possibly Italy he is virtually unknown.

Still he is something of a unique figure in football and boasts a record even Stanley Matthews cannot claim. For at the age of 53 he is playing senior football.

Born in Uruguay, Zapirain first came to view playing for the Montevideo club Cacional. In 1947-48 he went to Europe and had a spell with Inter-Milan. Shortly afterwards he was tempted to the Utopian area of Bogota, Colombia where a pirate league was formed and the stars of the world were being snapped up.

Players like George Mountford, Neil Franklin, Bobby Flavell and Roy Raul among others were attracted from these shores and even Stanley Matthews must have been approached to join them. But Zapirain went and played alongside such names as Alfredo di Stefano. While others later left, remained.

And today at 53 he is st out there. And during his unspectacular career he never to have been sent of a disciplinary record that Stanley Matthews acknowl

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AFTER Pele's film of story and Johan Cruy in his own biography, cons an approach to Gianni R skipper of Italy's AC M this time it is a different Latin film moguls decided did not want a biographic Rivera, but offered him another production.

They wanted him to pla of an anarchist in a film Princess Ira of Furstenber one-time golden boy football turned the approa So perhaps after all it will fore he stars in his own Rivera will be seen on screen.

PETER Jekov the Bulga forward of CSKA Se President of the 150 Club country. This exclusive o has a current membership and is open to players scored 150 or more senio their career.

Jekov is way out ahead rivals with 316. These made up of 248 in the Lea the Cup, 25 in internationa five in the European Cup the Cup Winners Cup.

And he looks like rem top marksman for years His nearest rivals are unf both dead, Georgi As (197 goals) and Nikola Ko who were killed in a car cr two years ago now.

Yet Jekov who was thi scorer in European foo season is only 28 but can his place in the national te

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PORTO'S decision to Bela Guttmann, 73-ye Benfica trainer as their brings back to "Sorcere Iberian peninsular.

..WORLD SOCCER DIARY...

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Zagrain ill fading lengthy if can claim f the field; the great edges too.

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Guttmann, who has been in semi-retirement in Austria for some years, now is probably fitter than most men of his advanced years. He underwent a medical examination before taking the position and was found to be in good shape down—or rather up—to the fact that he has all his own teeth!

Oddly enough the day before Porto decided to secure his services, their youth side won the national championship for the fifth time in nine years.

ONE of the stories which appeared following the Brazilian tour of Europe concerned the fact that Pele would certainly play in the World Cup finals next year.

It was patently obvious that Brazil needed him. The attack was so aenemic and Pele's flair was desparately required. But Pele has retired from international football and did so back in 1971.

However, it seems that the situation today is this: Pele would probably play if sufficient money was guaranteed and equally as important if someone asked him! That someone is obviously Mario Zagalo the manager. But Zagalo is just as keen to win the World Cup without calling on the services of the maestro. It would be a great boost to him if he could. So there the stalemate remains.

GUNTER Netzer's last season in German football was certainly an eventful one. Not only did he get himself transferred to Real Madrid at a reported £60,000 a year at the end of it, but managed to win the Footballer of the Year title and the Goal of the Month with virtually his last kick of the ball there.

The goal which won him that prize came in extra time in the Cup Final when he came on after he had been relegated to the role of substitute, because he had been in Madrid negotiating his contract and was not apparently match fit . . .

THERE is only one world-class player in the whole of West Germany. This is the amazing assessment produced by the country's leading sports paper, the *Kicker* *Sportmagazin*, in their usual half-yearly rating list.

One notes with some amusement that while in England, for instance, during the course of the season between 20 to 30 players are hailed in the various medias and by club managers as "world class", the Germans, who are after all the reigning champions of Europe, modestly claim to possess only one star worthy of the highest accolade: Franz Beckenbauer, the *libero* of Bayern Munich and captain of the national team.

Even such brilliant midfield schemers as Gunter Netzer (now with Real Madrid) or Wolfgang Overath (Cologne), are rated together with Wimmer (Borussia Monchengladbach) and Flohe (Cologne) as only "international class".

In the same category *Kicker* puts the goalkeepers Maier (Bayern Munich), Franke (Eintracht Brunswick), Nigbur (Schalke) Kleff (Bor. Monchengladbach) and Welz (Cologne). The defenders Breitner (Bayern) Vogts (Bor. Monchengladbach), Kapellmann (Bayern) and Cullmann (Cologne). And the forwards Muller (Bayern), E. Kremers (Schalke) and Heynckes (Bor. Monchengladbach).

The biggest surprise is the total omission of players in the outside right position. Not one of their stars, not even the famous Jurgen Grabowski (Eintracht Frankfurt), is rated even in the "international class". Together with Geye (Fortuna Dusseldorf) and Seel (Kaiserslautern), the blond Grabowski is ranked merely "on the fringe"!

There's no need to ask young Ron Ashworth which team he supports . . . it's written all over him! Ron, from Rochdale, turned up at Maine Road recently to prove he is Manchester City's number one fan wearing a suit with "Manchester City" woven through it. The suit is the first of many being offered to City fans.

Edited by JAMES TYRRELL

Newsdesk...Newsdesk...Newsdesk...Newsdesk...New

Yakimov's new position

IF Dimitar Yakimov, former captain of the Bulgarian Army club CSKA Sofia and an experienced international inside forward with 60 caps, fails as a trainer he can swot up on the oil business.

For he recently took up an appointment as coach to the Kuwait national team and he could be an important man on the spot in any forthcoming fuel crisis!

Yakimov first came into prominence during the 1966 World Cup finals in England when he showed that it was not only the Brazilians who could almost make the ball talk. Unfortunately the remainder of his colleagues were not up to his standard and Bulgaria made a quick exit.

Though still in his early 30s, he decided upon an early retirement and after completing his trainer's course in Bulgaria was fortunate enough to land a "slick" job for himself.

Barcelona, thwarted in their efforts first to sign Johan Cruyff and then Gerd Muller, arranged a tour of Europe prior to the start of the season. They planned to take with them 20 players, a tour organiser, two trainers, two doctors, two masseurs and a cook.

A day or so before they were due to leave they played a friendly which was really nothing more than a training spin and ended it with four bad injuries, including two players with fractures!

None of the West German Bundesliga clubs played more football during the close season than the champions Bayern Munich. In a whirlwind extravaganza tour they played 17 matches, winning 12, drawing one and losing four.

Though they conceded 34 goals they scored a fantastic 123 including a mighty 17 against TSV Baierbach who managed to get two. Bayern also reached double figures against TSV Murnau (16), TSV Haar (15), ASV Cham (13), FC Amberg (12) and TSV Grafelfing (11).

Their four defeats were against Kaiserslautern (1-3), Dukla Prague (1-2), Bordeaux (2-3) and Olympique Marseille (1-3).

Ajax goalkeeper Heinz Stuy had to wait several years before he won a first team place, playing second string to Gert Bals. When he did succeed in establishing himself the side had their best years in European football.

But recently, on the occasion of Ajax's appearance in a club tournament in Spain, Spartak Trnava the Czechoslovakian League winners beat them 5-3 and Stuy did not have a particularly good match.

In fact Ajax started their current League programme off with Seis Wever in goal and the latter is very much in the same position that Stuy was in understudying Bals!

Not for the first time and probably not the last the Latin American scene has produced something of a unique occurrence. In the opening match of the Afro-Latin American Games soccer tournament between Guatemala and Mexico, two players were sent off.

There is nothing particularly unusual about this but wait . . . one of the players sent off had not even gone on the field!

The incident occurred when the Guatemalan defender Raul Toledo was given his marching orders. As he walked away he shouted abuse to the Mexican substitutes bench. Jorge Torre, one of the reserves shouted back in similar language and was promptly sent to the dressing room by the referee!

Guatemala beat the fancied Mexicans 1-0 with a goal in the 33rd minute by Oscar Enrique Sanchez.

Zambia improved their hopes of progressing further in the African Zone of the World Cup when they beat Kenya 2-0 in Lusaka. They took the lead in this first leg match in the first half through Brighton Sinyangwe and Simon Kaushi added a second after the interval.

The Independence Stadium in Lusaka is becoming something of an attraction these days. Unfortunately a hill overlooking the ground is a suitable vantage point for watching the game and is so densely populated that it is called Humanism Hill.

Gunter Netzer returned to Moenchengladbach to receive his Golden Ball Trophy as Footballer of the Year for the second successive year and played for Real Madrid in a friendly with his old club Borussia.

Unfortunately it was not a particularly happy occasion for him and Borussia won quite easily 4-2. Real's lone star was outside left Oscar Mas, who is already being hailed as another Francisco Gento.

Netzer's last match for Moenchengladbach was in the West German Cup Final when he came on as substitute in extra time and scored the winning goal; a feat which earned him the "Goal of the Month" award.

PIERINO ANASTASI

(Juventus and Italy) writes

MY name is Pierino Anastasi and I play football. I suppose that is really the story of my life, but since I'm told that you would like to know more, then I will elaborate a little. I am Pierino Anastasi and I am worth £440,000.

Oh yes, I'm realistic enough to know that my transfer fee from Varese to Juventus, which made me the most expensive footballer in the world, is my main fascination. Even now, after more than five years, I still bear it like some huge burden on my shoulders. Sometimes I think to myself, Anastasi, you're terrible. A mistake like that by a man worth 700 million lire. Juventus must have been mad.

Other times I see its amusing side. I lie on my bed, and wiggle one of my big toes and say to my team-mates —that toe you see is a very fine toe, it's worth £20,000. One day Bercellino, who is a bit of a comic, heard me say this and came in with a big knife and pretended to cut it off.

I was born on April 7, 1948 in Catania, the second largest town in Sicily, situated on the east coast. I can't remember how old I was when I started to play football, except that my friends and I had only a small rubber ball and I could not afford proper boots, because my family was poor. I remember my mother was very cross when I kicked a hole in my only good shoes.

Dominate

I was not very big for my age, and I did not make much of a showing in junior football, where, as you know, the bigger you are the more you seem to dominate a game. It was only when I got into my late teens and shot up a few inches that I began to be taken seriously.

My first proper club was Massiminiana. In those days they played in Section F of *Serie D*, which is the Sicilian region of the Fourth Division of the Italian League. I don't have any real idea about the English Fourth Division, but as all your players are professional, I should imagine that the standard of ours is a long way below it. But to me, of course, it seemed very grand and important.

I played for Massiminiana for two seasons, the first on the wing, which I didn't like at all. In that standard of football most of the passing is pretty hopeless, and you can only get one or two chances to beat the full-back; if you don't, then the ball doesn't come your way very much. I liked it better in the centre; even if there was less room there was always something to do.

Anyway, in the second season we won Section F and got into Third Division football, which was quite fantastic really, considering what a terrible team we had. We had a lot of big defenders who were difficult to get by, and they used to boot the ball downfield to the forwards. In this league most teams had one or two veterans, and they often found our younger players — like myself, of course, for I was the youngest in the team—a bit too fast for them.

I got a lot of goals, about 30 in all if I remember correctly, and late in the season the Varese manager, Bruno Arcari, came to have a look at me. He was pretty desperate for new players, for Varese were more or less certain to go down into the Second Division, and he didn't have the money for any big stars. At any rate I had what was easily my best game ever, against one of our strongest opponents, Regusa. I scored two goals and they were both from overhead kicks. Signor Arcari seemed impressed, and I had a letter from Varese the following week, offering terms—which seemed relatively small now, but were a fortune to me at the time. Of course I accepted, and Massiminiana were paid a few thousand lire to let me go.

Gamble

I thought it would take me quite a time to settle into Second Division football, which is quite a jump from the regional league. But somehow it didn't, I suppose because I was an unknown and a gamble, so people were not surprised when I made stupid mistakes and quite pleased when I did something promising. To my surprise, and needless to say, to most people's utter astonishment, I was among the leading scorers and Varese went back into the First Division.

Varese were still very much the joke of *Serie A*, so much so that some clubs actually came to our rather poky ground with the idea that two points would be easy to get as one—and usually they went away empty-handed. This meant that for a long time I really had to face a true *catenaccio* or padlock defence: away teams never bothered to play with extra defenders, and with much more space than usual I had a chance to get used to the pace of First Division football.

But to be frank, it was not my few goals that made Varese a serious candidate for the championship, but Picchi, the then captain of Inter Milan and Italy's famous centre-half. For a long time the word had been going round that the knives were out at Inter, that Helenio Herrera and Picchio were plotting to get rid of one another. I am not entirely sure what happened, but I think Picchi tried to get Herrera kicked out, failed, and had to go himself. What I do know is that he came to Varese for a ridiculously small sum, as though Inter simply had to sell him to the first bidder, rather than the highest.

Confidence

Herrera dismissed Picchi as a has-been, but to me he was the greatest centre-half in Europe: nothing got by him, and I was thankful I didn't have to play against him. With a player like that at the back our confidence grew; and confidence is like a see-saw on the field, the more you have, the more worried the opposition becomes. There were some games when we used to strut out on our little pitch like Real Madrid.

The match I remember most vividly was against Juventus. We won 5-0, and I scored three goals; although I say it myself, two of them were about as good as you could hope for, right in the corners, quite unstoppable.

It would be nice to say that we went on to win the championship, but in fact we went to pieces in the second half of the season. Picchi was badly hurt in Italy's European Championship match against Bulgaria in Sofia, and though our president, Giovanni Borghi, sent his private plane to bring him back to Pisa, the nearest airport, there was no hope of Picchi playing that season, if at all. Our morale went almost at once, we lost badly against some poor teams, and the chance was gone.

We were in the bath after our last home game when Signor Borghi came down to see us.

● Continued on page 47

YUGOSLAVIA HOPE OF FO

WITH West Germany qualified as hosts and the Soviet Union due to meet the winners of the Chile-Peru play off, Europe could claim ten of the 16 final places. Already, however, some of the established nations who have done well in post-war competitions have failed to qualify including Hungary (finalists in 1954) and France (semi finalists in 1958). Another finalist and semi finalist—Czechoslovakia (9962) and Portugal (1966) appear to be in danger of elimination.

Elsewhere, taking current form rather than past performance as the guide, it is a tragedy that Poland and England have been drawn together, as have Spain and Yugoslavia. Two of these four must be eliminated while there is every likelihood that Mexico will once more qualify and, just as surely, do nothing.

However, several key matches will be played off in the opening weeks of the new season and this is an eminently suitable time to survey the field. My forecast for the last sixteen is given at the head of each group and with the emphasis everywhere on defence the central characters in many vital matches will be the goalscorers. For this reason I have listed the scorers to date in each group.

Bobby Moore leads out England at Wembley, followed by Peter Shilton.

Group I . . . SWEDEN

IN the early summer of 1972 when Austria beat Sweden 2-0 in Vienna and the Hungarians drew 0-0 in Stockholm it looked like a straight fight between the two central European countries. Since then Georg Ericsson the Swedes team manager has put together an effective attacking unit in which the twin figures of left wing pair Ralf Edstrom and Roland Sandberg play the vital role.

For the Hungarians who are unbeaten (and one hopes the lesson will not be missed by many others) avoiding defeat is not always enough. They are out and so too are Austria unless the Swedes fail to win by two goals away to Malta.

The Swedes have problems for Edstrom is now in Holland with PSV Eindhoven and Sandberg is in West Germany with 1st FC Kaiserslautern though both should be released for this match. The Maltese could make things difficult on their very poor playing surface and anxious to make a name for themselves they could pack their defence and hope.

The Swedes must be in the right frame of mind for this match but they should carry too much firepower for the Maltese particularly in the air, where the giant Edstrom stands head and shoulders above his opponents. Bo Larsson, Ove Grahn, Ove Kindvall and the two stars already mentioned should be experienced enough to knock in the necessary goals.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Hungary	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Sweden	5	2	2	1	13	7	6
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	18	0

Scorers:

Sweden: Edstrom and Sandberg 4 each; Larsson 2; Kindvall, Szepanski, Grahn 1, and one own goal v Malta.

Austria: Jara and Hickersberger 2 each; Starek 2; Hof 11, Parits, Pumm, Hasil and Koglberger 1.

Hungary: Bene 3; Kocsis and Zambo 2 each; Kozma, Vidats, Balint, Juhasz (I) and Dunai (A) 1.

Group II . . . ITALY

THIS group has almost been settled already with only the Swiss standing between Rivera and company, and a place in the final stages. The Swiss could and should improve their goals tally against Luxembourg but they won the away match only 1-0 with a "sundry shot" from way out by Karl Odermatt.

Having been held to 0-0 at home to Turkey, the Swiss will have to gallop through every game if they are to make up the leeway. But Italy still have to meet the Swiss (in Italy) and a 1-0 win would put an

VIA—THE FOOTBALL

ERIC BATTY presents a survey of the World Cup situation in Europe...

end to all speculation. This, of course, is the Italians favourite score and I can't see them failing to qualify . . . even if the Swiss get Karl Rappan and his magic wand out of retirement.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	3	2	0	10	0	8
Switzerland	5	1	2	0	1	0	4
Turkey	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Luxembourg	5	1	0	4	2	15	2

Scorers:

Italy: Riva 6, Rivera, Anastasi, Capello and Chinglia 1 each.

Switzerland: Odermatt 1.

Turkey: Osman 2; Koksal 1.

Luxembourg: Braun, Dussier.

Group III . . . HOLLAND

AT the time of writing Belgium lead this group by four points but within days of publication the Dutch should have made up the leeway and run up an unassailable tally of goals in case the "difference" counts in the end.

It could well do if the Holland-Belgium game follows the pattern of their encounter in Antwerp which, as then, should suit Cruyff and eompapy. At the end of August, Holland play Iceland and by arrangement both matches will be played in Holland.

If Cruyff puts himself out for once they might run up double figures in each match. That could, if both sides beat Norway, leave Belgium with the task of winning in Amsterdam if they are to qualify. Believe me, if that happens then Amsterdam will be the most boring place in the world to be on November 18 for both sides would be delighted to win 1-0 while the Dutch will be just as pleased to draw 0-0 and qualify on goals.

The onus will be on Belgium but they will not take chances unless it's 0-0 with ten minutes left.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	3	1	0	10	0	7
Holland	2	1	1	0	9	0	3
Norway	3	1	0	2	4	12	3
Iceland	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Scorers:

Belgium: Lambert and Polleunis 3 each; Van Himst, Dolmans, Dockx and Janssens 1 each.

Holland: Neeskens 3; Cruyff and Brokamp 2 each; Keizer and De Jong 1 each.

Norway: Johansson, Lund, Fuglset (J), and Hesiad 1 each.

Iceland: Eliasson 1.

Group IV . . . EAST GERMANY

THIS is another evenly balanced group with almost nothing to choose between East Germany and Rumania. The latter boobed badly when they dropped a point (1-1) away to Finland where the Germans won 5-1 but they took the initiative by narrowly beating the Germans 1-0 in Bucharest with a second half goal scored by Florea Dumitrache.

For the Germans the return match against Rumania will be vital for their opponents then only have to play at home to Finland (which they should win) while Kreische and company must travel to Albania. That may not sound too difficult but like Malta and Cyprus it is no place for a picnic. It was much more fun before people in such places heard about keeping all 11 players in their penalty area and playing for a 0-0 draw . . . and the word has spread.

It is a great pity that these two teams were put in one group with Nicolae Dobrin, Radu Nunweiler and Dumitrache the stars on one side and Hans-Jurgen Kreische, Wolfram Lowe and the new young striker Joachim Streich their East German counterparts.

The Rumanians will doubtless play it very, very tight in the key game which the Germans *must* win, counting on scoring a few (in case it goes to goals) against the Finns. It's all up to the Germans but they have the fire-power to do it and it will be their own fault . . . given a reasonable referee . . . if they don't.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	4	3	1	0	8	2	7
East Germany	4	3	0	1	12	2	6
Finland	4	1	1	2	3	11	3
Albania	4	0	0	4	1	9	0

Scorers:

Rumania: Dumitrache 2; Dobrin, Nunweiler (R), Dembrowski, Dumitru, Troi and Taralunga 1 each.

East Germany: Streich 5; Sparwasser 3; Kreische 2; Lowe and Ducke 1 each.

Finland: Toivola, Rissanen, Manninen 1 each.

Albania: Bizi, 1.

Group V . . . ENGLAND

POLAND should take their revenge on Wales to head the group temporarily but after that they will need to survive a first ever visit to Wembley. True they drew with England in Liverpool the last time they were in England but that wasn't a World Cup game with everything at stake.

I have every confidence that the tried and trusted old campaigners, including the "heavy artillery" will be produced at Wembley for the Poles. England will win one way or the other for even if the Poles get kicked and give it back I don't know of a referee in the world who would have the courage to send off England players at Wembley. Lubanski and company "blew" their chance at Cardiff where I understand they chickened out. It must be England but more thanks to Wales than the Ramsey man.

● Continued overleaf

Polish supporters predict the result of the World Cup clash against England in Katowice. They were almost right: Poland won 2-0.

YUGOSLAVIA—THE HOPE OF FOOTBALL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
England	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Poland	2	1	0	1	2	2	2

Scorers:

Wales: Hockey, James, Toshack, 1 each.

England: Bell; Hunter, 1 each.

Poland: Gadocha, Lubanski, 1 each.

Group VI . . . BULGARIA

THE Bulgarians took the initiative right from the start in this group and with an away win over Cyprus (4-0) where Northern Ireland lost, and a 2-1 home win over Portugal they set back both their major challengers. I don't feel the present Bulgarian side has a prayer of achieving anything remotely noteworthy next year but neither can I see them failing to qualify.

Working things backwards, they have a home match with Cyprus to come which should mean eight points and a good goals difference (already considerable) should it be needed. That means that the Irishmen are already as good as out and all Bulgaria have to do really is avoid defeat in *one* of their two big games . . . in Lisbon or Belfast. That would give them an untouchable nine points plus goals.

The Portuguese could still cause an upset by beating Bulgaria but it is significant that Eusebio, the most deadly marksman in Europe with 40 goals in 30 league matches, has only scored one World Cup goal . . . from a penalty.

Augusto isn't even sure of keeping his job if Portugal fail and when it comes to a choice between even an off-form Bonev and an over-rated "has been" I must opt for Bulgaria.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
Portugal	4	2	1	1	7	3	5
N. Ireland	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
Cyprus	5	1	0	4	1	12	2

Scorers:

Bulgaria: Bonev 5; Denev 2; Mihailjlov, Kolev, 1 each.

Portugal: Nene 2; Eusebio, Chico, Jorge, and Humberto 1 each.

N. Ireland: Anderson 2; O'Neill, Morgan, 1 each.

Cyprus: Antoniou 1.

Group VII . . . YUGOSLAVIA

IF there is to be any hope that a real football team wins the World Cup let us all pray for the Yugoslavs. The battle for the supreme honour in World football now looks to me like an even-money race between Italy (Heaven forbid), England (God help us), Germany (not with the Koln Kickers) and a negative Brazil.

Though things could conceivably change by next June, it would be a supreme optimist that thinks they are going to change much. Herr Schon might decide after all to bring back Netzer and Wimmer but otherwise our

● Continued from previous page

only real hope that a football team will win the World Cup is Yugoslavia.

This is not to suggest that *all* the Yugoslavs are little gentlemen—I know Holcer, Katalinski and Pavlovic can all hand it out . . . but at least the Yugoslavs can play a bit. They have some real thoroughbreds in Krivokuca, Stepanovic and Dzajic; a very useful spearhead in Bajevic and Acimovic is an exceptionally gifted midfield general who can also take the odd goal.

They are my solitary hope for the salvation of the 1974 series but Spain and Greece stand in their path. The Greeks have gone off the boil a bit since Yugoslavia beat them 1-0 and the Yugoslavs drawn game was a key one — away to Spain (2-2). If Yugoslavia go down at home to Spain in October they will have no one to blame but themselves.

The Yugoslav's problem is a familiar one —goalscoring—and Red Star the champions don't help too much in this direction. Had their fire-power matched their tremendous skills when they played at Tottenham last season they would have murdered Spurs in the UEFA Cup.

One wonders why Slobodan Santrac hasn't been tried more often in the national team, but we can only hope that Dusan Bajevic is fit and well on the big day . . . and in Germany next year.

Spain, of course, are no slouches, with the help of Argentina (in the shape of Valdez) and Hungary via their manager Ladislav Kubala. They, too, would make fof a better World Cup in place of Mexico but FIFA organise and we can only watch and comment.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Greece	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Scorers:

Spain: Claramunt and Valdez 2 each; Amancio, Sol, Martinez, and Asensi 1 each.

Yugoslavia: Bajevic 2; Acimovic 1.

Greece: Antoniadis, Domazos, Koudas 1 each.

Group VIII . . . SCOTLAND

THE critical encounter here was the Czechs failure to get both points when they visited Copenhagen. Where Scotland won 4-1 the Czechs could only draw 1-1 and if belatedly they did manage to stir themselves to amass an advantage in terms of goals, it's points that count first in the World Cup.

From the Czechs viewpoint it's a pity that Tommy Docherty got hold of Scotland just when he did to kick some life into them but facing the facts as they are the Czechs must now go to Hampden and at least draw. It isn't beyond them in view of Scotland's recent decline but given that Czech coach Vaclav Jezek has enough sense to leave Adamec in Trnava (Adamec could have been a great player but is now beyond all hope) it depends on their luck.

Scotland are in fact two teams. There is the fighting, running, enthusiastic outfit that frightened England at Wembley . . . they would murder the Czechs . . . and there is also the shambles that was on view against Brazil recently. I really couldn't care whether either team plays in Germany next year or not but the outcome in this group depends on which team faces the Czechs at Hampden.

If it's the rabble that shared a pitch recently with Rivelino and Luiz Pereira then it's up to the Czechs to earn their place. If it's the all action Wembley machine then *"dobrou noc, pan Jezek a CSSR"* . . . good night Mr. Jezek and Czechoslovakia.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1	0	7	1	3
Denmark	4	0	1	3	2	13	1

Scorers:

Scotland: Morgan, Macari, Harper, Bone, Lorrimer, Dalgleish 1 each.

Czechoslovakia: Vesely (B) 3; Bicovsky, Nehoda, Hagara and Petras, 1 each.

Denmark: Laudrup, Bjornmose.

Group IX . . . U.S.S.R.

THE Soviet Union has already won this group but when the draw was made it was decided that the winners of Group IX should play off for a place in the last sixteen with the winners from one of the South American groups. This means now that Russia must play home and away games with Chile/Peru for the right to play in West Germany.

In their sub group, the Russians were considerably assisted by the ineptitude of the French who began by beating Russia 1-0 in Paris and then dropped three points to the Republic of Ireland. The Russians made no such mistake though they were aided by the absence of Johnny Giles (Leeds) but nevertheless took maximum points from their two games with Eire. Followed by a 2-0 win over France in Moscow, this was enough to put them through to the play off.

There is still no indication that the Russians, despite the vast number of people they have playing the game, are yet in any position to be more than difficult to beat. In recent matches they have been beaten in Moscow by both England and Brazil and have serious problems in attack.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U.S.S.R.	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Rep. of Ireland	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
France	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

Scorers:

U.S.S.R.: Onischenko 2; Kolotov, Fedotov, Blokhin 1 each.

Rep. of Ireland: Conroy 2; Treacy, Martin 1 each.

France: Chiesa, Berela, Larque 1 each.

Dragan Dzajic of Red Star and Yugoslavia.

Kreische wins player award in East Germany

HANS JURGEN KREISCHE, the Dynamo Dresden scoring ace, has been elected as East Germany's Footballer of the Year. Kreische, who finished last season with 26 League goals, received 340 votes for his achievement of averaging exactly one goal per match in the championship won by his club.

Second highest in the poll came the Carl Zeiss Jena centre forward Peter Ducke who had 181 votes. Ducke is the most capped of current East Germany international players with well over 50 appearances to his credit.

For many years the Ducke brothers — elder brother Roland has now retired from the active side of the game — were outstanding in East German football, though they were in fact born in Czechoslovakia.

THE Peruvian F.A. are not very happy after their failure to qualify for the 1974 World Cup finals after losing to Chile in a play-off which would have given them the opportunity of meeting Russia in a two-legged play-off for a ticket to Munich.

Peru successfully got the release of Hugo Sotil, the Barcelona striker, for the game but when they tried to arrange for the arrival of Teofilo Gubillas from Switzerland, the Basel striker decided he did not want to travel and refused to play.

Cubillas who was the outstanding Peruvian in the last World Cup has thus made a few enemies in high places in his home country.

ROBERTO SCARONE, the former national trainer of Peru, seems likely to take up an appointment as manager of the Montevideo club Penarol. Scarone, a former Uruguayan international forward of pre-war days was attacked in the press for his handling of the team which failed to beat Chile in the World Cup play-off recently.

The Penarol President Washington Cataldi announced that Scarone had accepted the position in principle and it was hoped that he would take up his duties shortly.

For the last five years Penarol have been under the shadow of their Montevideo rivals Nacional and Scarone faces an uphill task in restoring former glories to the club.

CLUB tournaments are a special feature of Spanish football in the pre-season period. They attract some of the best teams in the world and are usually well supported.

One of the most attractive competitions is the Costa del Sol tournament which has been in existence since 1961. The first winners were Atletico Bilbao and since then clubs from England, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Hungary and Uruguay have won it.

In 1972 the winners were Nacional (Uruguay) who beat Malaga 1-0 in the final. Only two clubs have won it more than once: Malaga in 1963 and 1971 and Tottenham Hotspur in 1965 and 1966.

Altogether 15 different countries have had teams in the competition and include Belgium, Yugoslavia, Morocco, France, Greece, West Germany, Portugal and Austria in addition to teams who have produced winners.

Not surprisingly it is Malaga who have appeared in the most competitions but Real Madrid have been in it three times.

Players who have been voted the outstanding performers in various tournaments include Paul Van Himst (Anderlecht and Belgium), Eusebio (Benfica and Portugal), Amancio (Real Madrid and Spain) and Dragan Dzajic (Red Star Belgrade and Yugoslavia).

GOALSCORING is being rewarded in France this year. In addition to the normal two points for a win and one for a draw, the First Division clubs will receive a bonus point if they score three goals or more in the championship match.

This will also apply to the Second Division and it is recalled that in 1968-69 season the lower division had a similar system and produced two clubs Angers and Angoulême who managed to register over 100 goals each!

AMALGAMATIONS are most common in Holland and Belgium and this year has proved no exception to the rule. The Belgian clubs Racing White and Daring Molenbeek have combined. Unfortunately something is always lost when such things happen and naturally it is impossible to retain all the former names in the new set-up.

But the romantic quality with Racing White certainly had when it was origialy formed by the fusion of Racing club and White Star has gone completely now as the new club will be known as R.W.D. Molenbeek! What a pity . . .

THE Polish national team preparing for its most important match of all, the game with England at Wembley in October has been on a tour of North America experimenting with the side they hope will beat Wales and then go on to take a point from England which will be enough to give them a place in the finals in Munich.

Their most significant victories in this tour have been 1-0 and 2-1 successes over Mexico, which have given them considerable encouragement for the giant task ahead.

Ararat suffer setback

Szabo of Dynamo Moscow.

SOVIET League leaders after 11 games, Ararat (Jerevan) suffered a temporary setback when they could only draw 0-0 away to Dynamo Tbilissi and then failed to gain a point when they were beaten 4-3 on penalties.

After that, however, they recorded four wins in a row, beating ASK Rostov 2-0, Dynamo Moscow (away) 1-0, another Moscow club ZDSA (1-0 at home) and 3-2 away to Paktakhor Taschkent. This run shot them clear at the top with a five-point advantage.

Opening

Managed by former Spartak boss Nikita Simonian, Ararat's strength stems largely from the fact that they have four players scoring goals: midfield stars Zanazianan and Andriassian—and strikers Ichtoian and Markarov, the latter both former internationals.

Dynamo Kiev, Dynamo Moscow and ZDSA Moscow share the number two spot with four other clubs only one point behind, including the champions Zarja Vorochilovgrad who recovered after a poor start that brought only two points from their opening five games.

RUSSIA

After improving their position, Zarja hit another bad patch. After beating Kairat (Alma Ata) 1-0 with a goal from their young midfield star Kopyi they were held to 0-0 at Leningrad (and lost on penalties yet again) and followed that with two unsuccessful visits to Moscow, losing 1-0 to ZDSA and 2-1 to Dynamo.

German Zonin, who led Zarja to the championship last season and then surprisingly moved to Leningrad, is still having a tough time keeping Zenith above the bottom two relegation places. At the half-way mark, Zenith are just one point above the danger zone.

Drawn

After beating ASK Rostov 3-0, Zenith lost to Dynamo Tbilissi and Dynamo Moscow on penalties after drawn matches but surprisingly beat Dynamo Kiev 2-1 at home.

Before the short break for summer holidays the Cup reached the quarter-final stage and the pairings made Moscow clubs Dynamo and Spartak favourites along with Dynamo Kiev and League leaders Ararat.

LOW GATES EVIDENT

TEN of the 16 First Division clubs in Czechoslovakia were watched by bigger average crowds in away games than they were at home during the 1972-73 campaign. Only the champions, Spartak Trnava, topped 10,000 average at home and away . . . playing in a town with only 40,000 inhabitants.

Dukla, still regarded as the upstarts in Prague, averaged only 4,478 at home (7,366 away) and played before only 881 in their match at home to VSS Kosice.

There were, however, five other gates less than Dukla's lowest, with four of them falling to unhappy Lokomotive Kosice.

Lokomotive finished sixth in the table and had the First Division's highest scorer in Ladislav Jozsa, who hit the net on 21 occasions. Their neighbours, VSS Kosice, did only slightly better at the gate, averaging 4,600 for home matches despite being involved in a close finish for the title race in which they ended third.

The best gates went to small town teams. Plzen topped the list with more than 27,000 for the visit of Slavia while relegated Spartak Hradec Kralove drew

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

25,690 early in the season at home to Sparta Pragle. Slovan Bratislava had a poor season but not surprisingly their two local derbies with Spartak Trnava totalled more than 49,000. The big Prague derby, Sparta v Slavia also topped 23,000.

Zilina's Stefan Slezak followed Jozsa in the scorers' race . . . with 19 goals, followed by the new international star Premysl Bicovsky who got 14 for unfashionable Teplice. The biggest overall scorer still active is Jozef Adamec of Spartak Trnava who though topping 150 league goals in his career managed only six league goals.

Ladislav Kuna was Trnava's top marksman with nine while Kabat and Fandel each matched the tally of Adamec.

For the new season, Josef Masopust steps up from the reserves to take over Dukla's first team while in Bratislava, Jozef Venglos, successful manager of the Czech Under 23 team last year, takes over from Jan Hucko.

Russia versus England, with Peter Storey in the fray.

First Division is enlarged

AUSTRIA

AT the AGM of the OFB in Austria it was decided to extend the First Division from 16 to 17 clubs for 1973-74 and up again to 18 next year. This in a country with a total population of only seven million.

The two bottom clubs, Vorwerk Bregenz and Wiener Neustadt, go down while Sturm Graz who would have been relegated now stay up. Up, too, come FC Simmering, SC Radentheim and Ratia Blundenz, the first two no strangers to the top flight.

Like the newly relegated clubs, however, who fell back after only one season "upstairs", the *newlings* will have a tough time avoiding the drop next summer.

Attendances have fallen again and SC Rapid are reputed to be £500,000 in debt. However, the Vienna club rustled up enough cash to sign the veteran international defender Gerhard Sturmberger from Linz ASK and are still hoping to engage the Polish international forward Latocha.

Among Rapid's other signings is Gustl Starek, an international inside-forward who was with Linz ASK last season. He comes to Rapid for the third time in his career in a straight swap for Rapid's international goalscoring left winger Geza Gallos. Starek, who has a reputation for indiscipline brings with him a three-match suspension to start off the new term.

FK Austria (Vienna) and 73-year-old Bela Guttmann have parted company. Guttmann, who always did like the sun has become technical Director of FC Porto in Portugal while FK Austria chairman Joschi Walter is threatening to make the club an amateur one if no big industrial sponsor is forthcoming with cash.

According to his calculations the club needs £110,000 a year to tick over and gate receipts alone will never cover that figure. Rapid are backed by a consortium of banks; Admira are supported by a brewery, and Eisenstadt get a £10,000 a year subsidy from the "Roter Husar" wine company.

EAST EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

KREISCHE TOPS SCORERS

EAST GERMANY

DYNAMO DRESDEN, the new champions in East Germany, owe a great deal to their very talented inside-left Han-Jurgen Kreische. Lining up in midfield and regarded as the key man there, he also topped the scorers' list for the third season in succession.

This time his personal tally was 26 — the best total since the 1952 campaign when the clubs played ten games more.

Just how invaluable Kreische's contribution was may be gauged from the other Dresden scorers—Frank Richter hit six, Reinhard Hafner five; though all told, Dynamo had 13 players who scored league goals.

Runners-up FC Carl Zeiss also took second place in the scorers' list through their international left-winger Eberhard Vogel who scored 17. Behind him came Hans-Bert Matoul of Lokomotive Leipzig with 14. Lokomotive, the beaten Cup finalists, were the only club to manage three players who reached double figures in terms of league goals—Wolfram Lowe got 12 and Henning Frenzel 10.

Bounced

In the Division II promotion play-offs, Stahl Riesa, who were relegated a year ago, bounced straight back. In their final play-off they hammered Energie Cottbus by 7-0. Energie recovered sufficient of their morale to hold Vorwarts Stralsund to 1-1 in their last match to earn promotion before a 12,000 crowd. Vorwarts went down last season with Riesa.

Attendances at First Division matches averaged almost 11,000. The biggest crowds for domestic matches were both at Leipzig where the two derby games between Lokomotive and Chemie attracted 40,000 and 37,000—more than the Cup Final.

Only five men were sent off during First Division matches, while 133 players received a total of 221 cautions.

DRASTIC —AND

Out of the World Cup, low crowds, too much televised football... Hungary needs

Special report

DEAFENING silence envelopes Hungarian football. The World Cup disaster doesn't seem to have made any difference. Apparently, no changes are contemplated, neither in personnel nor in the system, which is, in my view, slowly, but surely killing the game.

I hate to play the part of a prophet of doom, but it seems to me that unless drastic reforms are instituted—and rapidly—there is no way out of the cul-de-sac. Lack of application on the part of the players, and lack of public interest are the twin evils that must be fought against.

I have been told that youngsters nowadays prefer pop music to football, and when a club holds schoolboy trials, only about 20 kids turn up. At the tender age of 10, I was a young applicant at MTK, and well remember waiting in a queue of about 200 prospective Puskases. After five minute's play, the coach (brother of the famous forward Matyi Cseh) decided that I was better suited to table-tennis, and my big-time football career was over.

Open arms

I was deeply disappointed, and so were another 180 lads who were also rejected. Today, practically any young boy is welcomed with open arms; in other words, the demand is there but the supply has dried-up.

But non-interest in the game manifests itself even more painfully in the low attendance figures.

While the grounds are empty, millions sit in front of their TV sets watching a match. During the forthcoming autumn season, 23 games will be televised live, including internationals, European Cup matches, even games which do not feature Hungarian teams. Such an abundance of switch-button football must be detrimental to the best interests of the game, and if I was in charge of Hungarian soccer, I would cut this TV coverage severely.

Audience

Playing in front of deserted terraces is a deadening experience. As actors struggle to give their best—especially in a comedy—when they play to a small audience, similarly footballers need a crowd to become fully involved.

But this vicious circle doesn't entirely explain the "couldn't-care-less" attitude of many of the top stars. The West German sports magazine *Kicker* recently published an article which laid-out the salary structure of a Hungarian "amateur" such as Fazekas or Bene.

Their monthly earnings are 3,000 forints from their civilian jobs, plus 1,500 forints calories money, plus 9,000 forints winning bonuses, plus 3,000 forints collected for appearances in the national team. The total is estimated at about 16,500 forints, which is three times as much as the income of a journalist, engineer, or factory manager.

Every established player has a luxury car, a comfortable flat, and dresses as well as his Western counterpart. Basically there is absolutely nothing wrong with this. A fair day's pay for a fair day's work, and a footballer can only expect about 8-10 good years.

Unhappily, once a player has acquired all the available luxuries and has amassed sizeable savings, he has no incentive left apart from personal pride and loyalty to his coach and club. Tragically, these are unfashionable virtues, and the majority of the players can only be motivated by tangible rewards. If an undisciplined player is fined or suspended by his club, he can always fall back on his "other" job, and more often than not, there is a well-intentioned but foolhardy club official who is only too willing to side with the celebrated star and make up his wages from his own pocket.

The only answer is full andopen professionalism with clearly defined duties and incomes. Laszlo Feleki, the doyen of the Hungarian writers, has posed these ques-

Dynamo's late run

RUMANIA

UNIVERSITATEA Craiova appeared to have the Rumanian championship locked away after overhauling Steaua, the Bucharest Army club, but Dynamo Bucharest came with a late run to pip them for the title on goal average.

Dynamo's home match with CFR Cluj was postponed a month before the finish, on the day that Craiova went down at home 1-0 to Steagul Rosu (Brasov). Next time out Craiova dropped a point away to Ploesti (2-2) and Dynamo began to make up a five point leeway.

Dumitrache and Company beat Steaua in the Bucharest derby, 2-0, hammered Universitatea Cluj 5-1 away and picked up nine points from their last five matches.

On the last day of the programme Craiova stood two points clear at the top and both sides had a game in hand to play.

The outstanding matches were played off in midweek and while Dinamo had to beat CFR Cluj (at home) by at least three-nil to give themselves a chance, should Craiova fail to gain a point, the leaders had only to avoid defeat.

For once Oblemenco, Craiova's chief marksman who topped the scorers list with 21 goals, failed to find the net and their last game rivals UT Arad hang on to a 1-0 lead despite having to play throughout the second half with ten men.

Meanwhile in Bucharest, Dinamo accounted for Cluj by 4-0 to take the championship by a nose. Dumitrache followed Oblemenco with 15 goals while former international Nicholae Pescaru (Steagul Rosu) was third highest scorer with 14.

The FA Cup provided a real surprise with the final going to a replay and attracting a 50,000 crowd to see Second Division Chimia Ramnicu beat Third Division Constructorul Galatzi 3-0 after a 1-1 draw and extra time.

Both sides benefited from the unusual ruling that in Cup games that are drawn a team from a lower division is adjudged the winner. To reach the final the Galatzi club put out SC Bacau (1-1) and Steaua (2-2) under this rule while Chimia beat 1972 champions Argesul Pitesti 2-1 in the quarter-final but needed penalties (5-4) to account for Division II companions Metalul Bucharesti with whom they drew 2-2.

REFORMS QUICKLY!

by LESLIE VERNON

tions in "Kepes Sport": "If we accept professionalism in football, why not in weight-lifting? And what kind of professionalism?"

My answers to these rhetorical questions are that weight-lifting is a minority exercise, while football is the most popular spectator sport in the world, and the kind of professionalism I am talking about is the one where the money is paid out over the counter and not under it!

As an additional incentive, players over a certain age (let's say 28) ought to be allowed to go abroad for a few years on the Yugoslavian pattern. The "cover" jobs should not be so readily available, only for genuine part-timers who are looking for a future outside the game. The transfer system must also be revised. At present, if a club is unwilling to release a player, he has to wait two years (!) before he is allowed to move.

Talented

That is the reason why none of the leading teams have signed anyone of consequence during the close season, and talented young players are condemned to stay in the Second and Third Divisions.

Now, as usual, everyone promises renewed efforts and improved performances for the coming season. Only time will tell whether there will be a raising of standards in the League, and consequently, in the international arena.

Ujpest have an easy draw against Waterford in the European Cup, and both Ferencvaros and Honved ought to beat Gwardia Warsaw and Kosice respectively in the UEFA Cup. Vasas, as we know only too well, won't have a comfortable time v. Sunderland, but the knowhow of manager Lajos Baroti ought to help them over this tricky hurdle. Hungary will play three matches during the autumn.

On September 26 they go to Yugoslavia, and on October 13 to Denmark. East Germany will be the visitors at the Nepstadium on November 21.

Meaningless friendlies they may be, but the Magyars do need a boost of confidence in a year when the leading footballing nations are getting ready for the World Cup.

Good performances in the European competitions and creditable results on full international level might provide a small consolation for missing the one really important event of the coming season.

● Continued from page 24

But afterwards they were second from the bottom again and Monaco descended once more into the lower reaches.

Last season they were top of Group B and outscored all other sides in their sphere with 89 goals. Top marksman was Carlos Ruiter the 30-year-old Brazilian centre forward. Little right winger Christian Dalger (23) came next with 15 and the Argentinian international midfield player and former skipper Omar Pastoriza (30) had 12. His midfield partner Jean Petit hit 11.

Captures

In the close season, trainer Ruben Bravo, himself an Argentinian, made some useful captures. In addition to his first choice goalkeeper Christian Delachet (24) he signed the 31-year-old Strasbourg player Christian Montes and Patrick Charpentier (22) from Limoges. This Madagascar born goalkeeper was outstanding last season and Monaco should have no worries in this position.

Other signings were right back Michel Odasso (24) from Nimes and midfield Georges Prost (25) from Lyon who now completed a trio of "P's" in the scheming roles. Outside left Jean Louis Masse (29) comes from Metz.

Several amateurs were also added Maranelli and Rosso from Cavigal Nice Vitalis, Lovisolo and Volpatti from Cazares. Another was Serge Perruchini a member of the back four in the centre of the defence.

Injured

Monaco were prepared to release Koum (27) and it appeared likely that he would sign for Besancon, but in a pre-season friendly Ruiter was injured and Koum has stayed. Full-back Georges Polny (30) also missed the start through injury but it gave Perruchini his big chance and he looks a fine prospect.

Centre backs Yvon Chomet (28) and Andre Guesdon (24) complete the defence and reserves in midfield are Jean-Louis Samuel (22) and Yves Texier (28).

Pastoriza is the key player, the organiser of the side and scorer of many useful goals, too. The opening game of the current season saw 5,000 at the Stade Louis II for the visit of Reims. A 3-3 draw heralded the start of a new era for the club and one which could take them back to the heights of former glories, because standards in France are still not that high.

Retrograde step by the NASL in United States...

THE United States of America have been trying to get soccer established for years now. They have made some inroads into the schools and there is hope for the future. However a recent decision by the NASL to withdraw three clubs from the CONCACAF championships, New York, Dallas and Olympique Montreal is a retrograde step.

Whatever complaints the NASL have over the organisation of the CONCACAF tournament, failure to keep contact with the rest of the world is not the way to progress at home.

SO successful was the African team in the Independence Cup in Brazil last year that plans are in hand for a similar selection to represent the Continent in a tournament in Mexico shortly.

Countries who are supplying players are: Tanzania, Algeria, Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Guinea and UAR.

Best known players are the Guinea strikers Cherif Souleymane and Petit Sorry and Yam Sam of Ghana.

STILL in this part of the world the East African Youth soccer Challenge Cup has been won by Uganda who were unbeaten in the tournament. Kenya came second in this five nation competition which also included Tanzania, Zanzibar and Zambia.

In the final Uganda beat Tanzania the holders 4-2.

World Cup preview—South America—by ERIC WEIL

Winger Larossa scores against Newell's Old Boys for league leaders Huracan in the Argentina First Division.

URUGUAY THROUGH

URUGUAY just won South American zone qualifying group 1 on goal average to become the first country to actually qualify for next year's World Cup finals in Germany, but they may find themselves without a team long before then.

No sooner had Uruguayans finished celebrating their 4-0 win over Ecuador—they had to win the last game by at least 2-0 or by scoring three times as many goals as their opponents, following their surprise 1-0 home defeat at the hands of Colombia—then they woke up to the fact that half their squad were already packing their bags to go and play for foreign clubs.

Offers—too good to be turned down by the hard-up Uruguayan clubs—had been received from Spain for half Maneiro, winger De Lima and forward Rey, from Mexico for goalkeeper Santos, winger Cubilla, forwards Esparrago and Bertocci and from Ecuador for half Cardaccio. To this must be added the imminent retirement of defender Ubina, the captain.

Curious

One of the players, Omar Rey, has been involved in a curious deal. He was brought from the provinces by Montevideo club, Danubio, and immediately called up for international duty. Now he is in the process of being transferred to Spanish club, Hercules, without ever having worn a Danubio shirt.

This exodus has its cause in the chaotic financial state not only of Uruguayan soccer clubs but the country as a whole. It is one situation in that little country, however, in which everybody seems to be pulling the same way.

The clubs must sell because they need the cash and the players want to go because they can earn much more elsewhere.

Uruguay had to get over a similar plunder of her best players after the last World Cup in Mexico, where this country finished fourth, and again after last year's Independence Cup tournament in Brazil, but time will not be on her side, following another mass exodus now.

The group one tournament started off by Colombia dropping a home point to Ecuador (1-1). Apart from playing a poor match, Colombia's Jugoslav coach, Veselinovic, was criticised for ordering defensive tactics in the second half to hold on to a 1-0 lead (Ortiz, 44 mins.) against Ecuador who were by no means superior until Colombia handed them the initiative in the second half. Ecuador's equaliser came 27 minutes after half-time when defender Segrera put through his own goal under pressure.

Further draws between Colombia and Uruguay (0-0) in Bogota and Ecuador and Colombia (1-1) in Guayarvil gave the impression that this was going to be a real close fight, but when Uruguay beat Ecuador 2-1 in Quito in the next match, the Uruguayans at least thought that this result had as good as put them in the finals, with only their two home matches remaining to be played.

As it was, Uruguay impressed as the better team only after the interval. Estupinan had given Ecuador a 32 minute lead, veteran winger Cubilla equalised just on half-time and Moreno scored the winner 26 minutes after the break when Uruguay did just enough to deserve the points.

In Montevideo, Colombia had to go all out for a win to stand a chance. The surprise was that they were successful. Right from the start they outran and outclassed the Uruguayans and only bad luck and the woodwork stopped them from taking a comfortable lead in a very good first half. Uruguay were only prominent with occasional counter-attacks. When Ortiz finally put Colombia ahead 26 minutes after half-time, Uruguay threw everything into a desperate attack but lacked organisation while the Colombians remained calm, played for time and ran out 1-0 winners.

Exodus

After this the last game was an anti-climax. Uruguay completely outplayed Ecuador (in Montevideo), scored through Morena after four minutes, added two more before half-time (Morena and Cubilla) and only let up after Milar had scored a fourth with 30 minutes to go.

Nevertheless, it was all too evident that the continual exodus of Uruguay's best players has left its toll, while Colombia—who also finished with five points from four games—seem to be on the way up.

Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia play off their South American group 2 games between September 2 and October 7 and while erratic Argentina are the favourites, they are by no means certainties to qualify.

Since hitting the headlines by beating West Germany 3-2 in Berlin earlier this year, Argentina drew 1-1 with Israel, drew twice with Uruguay by the same score home and away and have just beaten Chile (who played the better football) 5-4 in their home leg of the Dittborn Cup.

This latest performance, coming in the same week as a practice game against an out-of-training selection of Argentine players with foreign clubs (won 3-0) is perhaps the most significant.

It left the impression that the Argentine team lacked a leader, a mid-field organiser and a definite playing scheme and not for the first time the question is being asked: "What is the national team trying to play at?"

Coach Omar Sivori—the former Juventus star who played alongside giant Welshman John Charles — resigned after Argentina's tour over a matter of bonuses to be paid to players for the win against West Germany, but was coaxed back into the job, but is now again out of favour at FA headquarters because he continually comes with players problems. In other words, he is too much of a players man.

The 24-man squad he chose (Antonio Rosl, Roberto Telch, Ramon Heredia, Ruben Ayala, Ruben Glaria and Enrique Chazarreta of San Lorenzo, Rene Houseman, Miguel Brindisi, Francisco Russo—who has since withdrawn—Roque Avallay of Huracan, Carlos Guerini, Vicente Pernia and Ramon Ponce of Boca Juniors, Enrique

Sivori increases size of his national squad

HURACAN have increased their lead to four points in the Argentine First Division which is now past the half-way stage, while the top six places continue unaltered since my last report with River Plate (four points behind), Boca Juniors (5), Independiente (6 with a game in hand), San Lorenzo (7) all chasing the leaders and keeping their position in that order—which is unusual. But upsets are bound to come soon (writes ERIC WEIL).

The reopening of the Spanish transfer market to foreign players quickly started traffic in that direction. Apart from the record quarter-million sale of winger Mas by River Plate to Real Madrid, three players of champions San Lorenzo (Ayala, Heredia, Diaz) and their coach (Carlos Lorenzo) are going to Atletico Madrid, while goalkeeper Carnevali (Chacarita) and Guerini (Boca) among others, are going in the same direction.

Most of these players are in the national team and will not be allowed to leave Argentina until October, after the World Cup qualifying games, but clubs are already playing without national team squad players and national coach Omar Sivori has just named nine more players to increase the squad to 33 by August 5, so after that date champions San Lorenzo will be without seven players, River Plate 6, Boca Juniors 4, Huracan 4, Velez Sarsfield 4 among the most heavily hit.

This is bound to affect the fortunes of leading clubs, even if it hasn't altered placings yet. Huracan are without all their goal-getters (Brindisi, Avallay, Houseman), Boca Juniors had hit form with five wins in a row—including a surprise 5-2 win over eternal rivals River Plate and a 7-1 rout of All Boys—but are now without the players who were mostly responsible for this goal-rush.

The club which has been favoured is Libertadores Cup holder Independiente. They only have midfield man Galvan in the national squad and with 12 games to go they are not too far behind to go to the top in view of the handicap which other title contenders are faced with. Independiente gave an indication of things to come when they stopped Boca's five game winning streak by beating them 2-0 on their own field in the last game.

Contract

River Plate, on top of everything else, had to repair serious rifts within their ranks by terminating the contract of their former international insider, Daniel Onega, and fining two other players heavily, while defender Dominici has asked for his contract to be terminated also as he was being victimised by other players.

River Plate, frequent champions but without a title win since 1957, can not possibly keep up the challenge with so many players out, nor can San Lorenzo hope to retain the title. Somehow it seems unfair and the championship should have been suspended—as it was, for part of the season, during previous World Cup years.

Placings after 21 games (with 11 to go): 1 Huracan 34 pts., 2 River Plate 30, 3 Boca Juniors 29, 4 Independiente (one game less) 28, 5 San Lorenzo 27, 6 Velez Sarsfield (one less) 23, 7 Rosario Central 22, 8 Argentinos Juniors, Atlanta 21, 10 Estudiantes de La Plata 19, 11 Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata (1 less), Chacarita Juniors 18, 13 Racing Club (1 less), Colon 16, 15 Newell's Old Boys 14, 16 All Boys 9, 17 FC Oeste 7.

BRAZIL—Carioca League: (after 4 games) 1 Vasco da Gama 6 pts., 2 Fluminense, Botafogo 5, 4 Flamengo 4, 5 America, Bonsucesso 3, 7 Bangu, Olaria 0.

● Continued on page 42

STRUGGLE TO FINALS

Wolff, Norberto Alonso and Juan Lopez of River Plate, Jorge Troncoso and Daniel Tagliani of Velez Sarsfield, Daniel Garnevali (Chacarita), Ubaldo Fillol (Racing), Ruben Galvan (Independiente), Mario Kempes (Instituto, Cordoba) and Angel Bargas (Nantes, France)) has been concentrated since the beginning of July, first at a ranch near Buenos Aires and now at the Military College but the players (who are not allowed to play for their clubs) have not been satisfied with either location and have asked for a change. Maybe the new Sheraton Hotel will do for them?

A number of these players (Ayala, Heredia, Guerini, goalkeeper Carnevali) have already been transferred to foreign clubs. They will not be allowed to leave until after the World Cup group games, but the situation may have an unsettling effect on them.

Now Sivori announces that he will pick another 10 men shortly to increase the squad temporarily to 33 players, so with less than two months to go before the first game against Bolivia there is no settled team.

One decision is that 15 players will go for 15 days acclimatization to the northern Argentine province of Jujuy before going to play in the heights of La Paz(Bolivia) which, to my geographical knowledge, doesn't seem to be the ideal way to acclimatize either.

Paraguay, on the other hand, announced that they will go to La Paz itself (3400 metres above sea-level) before meeting Bolivia there and/or Peru's high lying centres of Cuzco and Arequipa for a month.

A 45-man squad was picked to start training on March 1 under Paraguayan coach Anibal Diaz, assisted by Brazilians, Paulo Amaral and Raul Carleso. All three have closely watched Argentina's matches this year, even following them on their tour.

Paraguay has already played in La Paz this year, drawing 1-1 with Bolivia in a friendly. Apart from several trial games against Argentine and other clubs—in which they showed nothing outstanding—they also lost 1-0 away to Peru and, as I write, are touring Brazil in the hope, no doubt, that some of the Brazilian soccer magic will rub off on their vigorous play.

Changes

Bolivia, after losing 2-0 to Peru (away), drawing 0-0 with weak Ecuador (away) and 1-1 with Paraguay at home, also played in Brazil with further disappointing results, which caused wholesale changes to be made to the squad in June.

Long-service coach, Freddy Valda, was replaced by Carlos Trigo and 10 players were changed. Trigo, like Valda, is Bolivian, but he has a Brazilian assistant in Antonio Clemente.

Unless these changes bring improvement, Bolivia is unlikely to go far. At the moment it looks as if none of the teams in this group stands out and the one making the fewest mistakes is likely to come out top.

Philly astound critics

by COLIN JOSE

THE Philadelphia Atoms, newcomers to the North American Soccer League this year, continue to astound the critics as they lead the league's Eastern Division with 84 points from 16 games, the highest point total in the entire nine team league.

A totally new club this year, under American coach Al Miller, Philadelphia are the fastest team I have seen in the NASL in a long time. Southport striker Jim Fryatt, on loan to the Atoms for the season and a man who has scored close to 200 goals in the Football League, has been outstanding, and in the vital encounter with the Toronto Metros in Toronto he played despite having 16 stitches in a gash over his left eye, and scored the equalising goal.

The Toronto-Philadelphia clash was without doubt one of the finest games I have seen in eight years of watching NASL teams perform. Philadelphia were faster on the ball and faster into the tackle than the Metros, but the Canadian club were more skilful particularly in midfield where Fernando Pinto, Gene Strenicer and Ian McPhee made excellent use of the ball.

Fitting result

Former Dinamo Zagreb player Bruno Pilas gave the Metros the lead in the 37th minute and Fryatt equalised 13 minutes into the second half. There was no more scoring and a tie was a fitting result to a fine game that was a first class advertisement for the NASL. Certainly if every game were as good as this one there would be no trouble selling professional soccer in North America.

Toronto, like Philadelphia, continue to lead their league as the races come right down to the wire. The Metros who were playing some fine soccer but having trouble finding the net earlier in the season, have been revitalised since the arrival of Terry Harkin who played five games for Northern Ireland between 1968 and 1971 and was signed on loan from Finn Harps of the League of Ireland.

Harkin is the kind of centre forward the Metros have been seeking for three years and he might yet be the man to lead them into the play offs for the first time in their history. However, the Metros still have to play three games against their close rivals the Rochester Lancers and MB3 of those games are in Rochester.

Leaders in the Southern Division are Dallas and they would seem to have a play-off spot all locked up at this stage as they lead the second place St Louis Stars by 22 points, so the spotlight really shifts to the other two divisions.

The Miami Toros recently missed a fine chance of closing the gap between them and the Philadelphia Atoms when they lost 5-1 to the Montreal Olympique. Still only 10 points back and with a game in hand they are not out of it yet and neither are the league champions the New York Cosmos who bring up the rear 22 points behind but with two games in hand. Under the NASL system whereby you can obtain a maximum nine points for a win 22 points is not a lot to make up.

On the executive level General Manager Norm Sutherland has parted company with the Miami Toros by mutual agreement while the Toronto Metros have appointed Canadian national team manager John McMahon as their team manager.

TOUGH TOUR FOR PEROLLI

from Colin Jose

WHEN Alex Perolli, coach of the Mexican First Division club Vera Cruz, thinks of the North American Soccer League he can hardly do so with fond memories.

In 1970 he was appointed coach of the Rochester Lancers but after 17 games of which the club won only five he was replaced by Sal de Rosa, who subsequently led the club to the championship.

Now his Vera Cruz club have just completed a far from successful tour of the nine NASL cities as part of the leagues regular programme. The tour began with a 6-0 hammering from the Miami Toros, but this looked to be something of a freak result when the Mexicans bounced back to beat the Atlanta Apollos 3-0, two days later. (Atlanta protested and won the replay 2-0).

From then on Vera Cruz drew 2-2 with New York, were beaten 1-0 by Philadelphia, beat Rochester 0-1 and then Toronto Metros cracked seven goals past the helpless Efren Gonzalez without reply. Rounding out the tour the Mexican club drew 1-1 with the Montreal Olympique were handed a 3-1 loss at the hands of the St Louis Stars and lost to Dallas by the same score.

Another team to tour the NASL this summer were Finn Harps the League of Ireland club from Ballyboffley and, like Vera Cruz, they too had a far from easy time. They lost four of their six games to Philadelphia 0-4, Atlanta 2-7, Rochester 0-1 and Toronto 0-4. They also drew with New York 1-1 and beat Montreal 3-1.

Outstanding

Laxio, who had such an outstanding season in Italy, also dropped in for a brief visit, losing two games to Santos before beating the Toronto Metros 2-1 on two second half goals from Nanni and Manservisi after Gene Strenicer had given the Metros the lead right on half time.

This game was marred by some of the turmoil that often seems to dog Lazio and two of their players (Martini and Oddi) were sent off and assistant coach Roberto Lovati was ejected from the bench. Bruno Pilas of the Metros also received his marching orders from Mexican referee Marco Dorantes.

Having a far easier and undoubtedly more enjoyable time were Ayr United who toured the island of Newfoundland. They opened with a 5-1 win over St John's, then beat the Burin Peninsula 5-2 before handing the provincial team a 9-1 loss, and finally the Scottish club beat the island's under 23 team 7-2.

Unfortunately the level of soccer in Newfoundland has yet to match the hospitality of the island people which is always first class.

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Eric Weil profiles the South American champions

BETTER — BUT NOT MUCH!

INDEPENDIENTE, who retained the Libertadores Cup (the South American Club Championship) this year, had high hopes of getting revenge for last year's defeat at the hands of Ajax Amsterdam in the Europe-South America Cup—a trophy which the Argentine club has so far been unable to win in three tries.

Now, Ajax have stated that they will not play Independiente for financial reasons.

I said last month that Independiente are a better team now than when they won the Libertadores Cup last year, but not that much better. Once again the opinion here is that they are one of the poorest South American champions ever—with more fighting spirit than football ability—and that they were lucky to retain the Cup which, as it is, they only managed to do with an extra time goal in the third final play - off. Argentine champions, San Lorenzo, and Brazil's Botafogo had been favourites to reach the final.

This season the club has been coached by Humberto Maschio, the former international insider who played for Racing Club (Independiente's great rivals and neighbours in Avellaneda, the industrial district on the outskirts of Buenos Aires which is their "home town") and then for several clubs in Italy before returning to steer Racing Club to their Libertadores and Europe-South America Cup triumphs in 1966.

Maschio, called "el bocho" (the head) by the fans because of his soccer brain as on-field organiser and also because of his partly bald, big head, is one of the few players who have played for two countries—Argentina and Italy (in the 1962 World Cup).

Admittedly Independiente's league record is now much better than when they met Ajax last year. They were then near the bottom of the table after having won the championship in 1970 and 1971. Now they are again challenging for the title, in fourth place and six points behind the leaders (but with a match in hand)—20 played, 11 won, 6 drawn, 3 lost and a 34-18 goals record which doesn't really indicate their lack of goal-scoring power.

Competition

This year, however, as Libertadores Cup holders, they had a bye into the semi-final group of the competition and only had to play seven games to win the Cup instead of the usual 15 to 16. Thus the team has had more time to concentrate on the league championship than last year.

Their reserve strength was shown in a couple of league games recently (during the Libertadores Cup three-game final series) when they fielded an entire reserve team which won one game and drew another against second-place River Plate.

In June, Independiente won another cup—the 1972 edition of the Inter-American Cup—against Olimpia of Honduras, the CONCACAF champions.

Of the team which faced Ajax last year, Independiente could still line up 10 players. The only certain absentee is Pastoriza, the mid-field organiser and then king-pin of the team who had actually been sold to Monaco before last year's games and left to join his new club immediately after.

Pastoriza's absence is certainly felt. The whole team played for him and he for the whole team, creating the openings which his team mates were unable to do. At the same time he was top scorer, getting more goals than his forwards.

Uruguayan international centre - half, Julio Montero Castillo was bought from Nacional Montevideo to replace him, but this player with the fiery temper and reputation for playing it rough, has spent some time on the sidelines under suspension and has not fitted in as well as expected. The spot was then covered by Hector Martinez, a very good player who, however, lacks the temperament and influence over his team mates which Pastoriza used to such advantage.

Three seasons

Miguel Santoro, the 31-year-old goalkeeper, who is the only player to have lined up in all four of Independiente's Libertadores Cup winning teams (1964, 1965, 1972, 1973), is still there, together with the defensive block of Commisso, Lopez, Sa and Pavoni which has been playing together for three seasons and lacks nothing in understanding.

They are sound in defence, but when the team goes up the lack of speed of Lopez (31) and Sa (25) is noticeable. In this case the general plan is for the two flank defenders, Pavoni and Commisso, to join in attack, while Sa marks the opposing forward nearest to goal and Lopez stays back as a sweeper. As Lopez does not come out well to break up attacks on his left, Sa and Pavoni are frequently overworked.

In mid-field, with Pastoriza gone, Raimundo (29), who had such an excellent understanding with the former, is not as

● Continued on page 47

by ERIC BATTY

Unknown team of the year in Poland...

THE game in Poland has been on the upgrade for several years yet, like many other countries struggling to reach the top level they have often murdered teams like Norway by big scores but failed in the serious tests against established countries. The Olympics victory and their more recent 2-0 win over England will, hopefully, finally prove to be the Poles last step on the road to the top. Now all they need to do is consolidate, though I fear they will not be strong enough nor determined enough to qualify in the World Cup. That however is no reflection on their ability but more of an indictment of the way the game is played today . . . as permitted by a shocking band of referees.

Proof that the Poles have improved lies in the fact that there has been a levelling off in their First Division. Where as two or three years ago the two giants Gornik Zabrze and Legia Warsaw could play below par all season or have a disastrous autumn and still take the honours, they will now have to be consistent too. This is the message of the 1972-73 campaign.

Ruch Chorzow and Gwardia Warsaw were both much improved last season (1971-72) though Gornik again took the Cup and League double. This year, however, with Gornik struggling to score goals for long periods and Legia well off colour Ruch and Gwardia both finished above them. Ruch still have the Czech Michal Vican as their manager. With half a side of full caps he has organised a very tight game with though effective, unfortunately denies centre forward Joachim Marks the opportunities to score.

Potential

Gwardia with former national team manager Ryszard Koncewicz in charge have maintained their improvement. They have the potential to develop into an attacking side, too, with players like Kraska, Szymczak and young Masztaler who scored on his international debut in the 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia.

Wisla Krakow also look promising. They had their best season since finishing runners up in 1965-66, since when they've always occupied a place in the bottom half of the table and once narrowly escaped the drop. This season they topped Legia and matched Gornik and, most significantly, half their side has played in the last year in Poland's Under 23 or Under 21 teams, including their two strikers Kazimierz Kmiecik and Ryszard Sarnat, who each scored 12 league goals—only one fewer than the top marksman, Stal's Grzegorz Lato.

LKS Lodz also showed up well after a faltering start to the campaign. Among their better performances late in the campaign they won 3-1 away to Gornik. Their manager is Kazimierz Gorski, who doubles as the current boss of the national team. One of his younger players is Miroslav Bulzacki who, at 22, stepped in for a first cap against England and did remarkably well at centre back.

Goalkeeper Tomaszewski also played well in that match though it wasn't his first cap and Lodz shouldn't have too many defensive problems with this pair about.

Stal Mielec were, however, the team of the season with the emphasis on the word team. It's difficult to know precisely where to lay the credit for winning the title was clearly a team effort. At least the preparatory work was done by Andrzej Gajewski, who was in charge for five years from 1967. Three times in the last few years Stal have come perilously close to the drop but just escaped each time. Then last summer the team was taken over by a Hungarian coach Karoly Kontha and off they went to the title.

General

The key man on the park is undoubtedly the midfield general, Henryk Ksperczak. Now 27 years old, he was born in Zabrze, played for both Gornik and Legia and though capped a few times never really became a star until now. There are three other internationals in the side, Krysztof Rzesny, centre forward Lat (the top Division I scorer) and left winger Stanislaw Domarski who previously played for Stal Rzeszow. Most of the side are one-club men.

Though Stal eventually took the title by three points and led the way for a long time the critical game came six weeks from home when they won 2-1 away to Ruch at Chorzow. After that, two draws and two wins (the latter for 8 goals to nil in total) saw them home.

Bottom two

Legia had a disappointing season with their star Kazimierz Dejna out of touch for long periods. They finished only three points above the bottom two but eventually won the FA Cup, beating Polonia Bytom in the Final after a goalless game and extra time. Down to penalty kicks, Legia won the trophy 4-2. From August 1 the Dukla Prague boss Jaroslav Vejvoda who steered them through a good time not long ago, returns—hopefully to repeat the feat.

Meanwhile Gornik suffered badly from an ineffective attack that was disrupted by the frequent absence of Lubanski. They leaned heavily on their new recruit, Andrzej Szarmach, who hit 10 of their 23 league goals in his first season in the top class. Lubanski, half fit or unfit for most of the campaign, scored only twice.

For next season the First Division will be enlarged from 14 to 16 clubs. Up from Division II come Slash Wroclaw, who went down in 1969 and Szombierki (Bytom) who bounce back after only one term. The bottom two Cup Finalists Polonia Bytom and Odra Opole get a chance to save themselves, playing off against the 3rd and 4th clubs in Division II, Hutnik (Krakow) and GKS Katowice.

● Continued from page 39

CHILE — First Division: 1 Concepcion 18 pts., 2 Huachipato 15, 3 La Serena, Union Espanola 13, 5 Antofagasta 12, 6 O'Higgins 11, 7 Union Calera 10, 8 Magallanes, Rangers, Universidad de Chile 9, 11 Green Cross, Naval 8, 13 Lota Schwager, Wanderers 7, 15 Universidad Catolica 6, 16 Union San Felipe 4, 17 Palestino 3, 18 Colo Colo 2 (from only one game — others were suspended while they played in Libertadores Cup).

COLOMBIA — "Opening" Championship (one game to go): 1 Millionarios de Bogota (virtual champions) 39 pts., 2 Deportivo Cali 34, 3 Nacional 30, 4 Madellin 28, 5 Union Magdalena, Cucuta 27, 7 Dep. Quindio 24, 8 Bocamaranga, Caldas 23, 10 Independiente Santa Fe 22, 11 Junior, Dep. Pereira, America de Cali 21, 14 Tolima 17.

PARAGUAY—First Division: (after 18 games, completing the second round): 1 Libertad 16 pts., 2 Cerro Porteno 24, 3 Olimpia 22, 4 Nacional 21, 5 Sol de America 18, 6 Guarani 17, 7 River Plate 15, 8 Sportivo Luqueno, General Caballero 13, 10 Rubio Nu 9. (C. Porteno, R.Nu one game pending).

PERU — First Division: (after 13 games): 1 Universitario 21, 2 Atletico Chalaco 18, 3 Sport Boys, Municipal 17, 5 Alianza Lima 16, 6 Melgar, Jaun Aurich de Chiclana 15, 8 Cienciano, Sporting Cristal 14, 10 Huracan 13, 11 Defensor Lima 12, 12 Union Tuman 11, 13 Leon de Huanuco, SIMA, Atletico Grau, Colegio Nacional Iquitos 10, 17 Torino 8, 18 Jose Galvez 3.

STUY FIGHTS FOR PLACE...

HEINZ STUY was 25 before he became the regular goalkeeper for Ajax. Like many a custodian before him he had to play the role of understudy.

Signed by the club from Telstar in 1967, as a replacement for Gert Bals, Stuy had to wait another three years before he had his chance. And then it must have all seemed worthwhile to him.

For within the space of three seasons Ajax had collected a hat-trick of European Cup successes. Stuy in fact only played his first European Cup game in September 1970 against Nendori Tirana.

Partnership

Born at Wann-Eickel in Germany, Stuy with no history of football in his family started his senior career in Holland with USV, but it was not until he joined Telstar that he started to do well. As a boy he had been impressed with the devastating partnership of Alfredo di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas, though he was not called upon to face their finishing power himself.

His favourite goalkeeper is Gordon Banks, now alas facing the prospect of retirement from the game after his accident.

Today Stuy admires most the skill of his colleague Johan Cruyff. And it is Cruyff who causes him most problems in training sessions which are not popular with Stuy as he prefers playing in competition rather than training.

Frustrating

He had a frustrating first three years with Ajax while standing by and it was during this time that the then Ajax trainer Rinus Michels gave him the encouragement he needed to persevere.

Stuy is big and rather stolid looking which tends to give him the impression of being slow and cumbersome. This is a fallacy. Because although he may not be the most fleet-footed of men, he can show a surprising agility when called upon.

Temperamentally he is ideal. A calm goalkeeper given only to occasional fits of impetuosity. And he is the one Ajax player who is not a star in the sense that he is an international player of repute.

Off the field he is a family man, married with a daughter. Predictably perhaps he drives a BMW, plays tennis, likes watching tough guy Charles Bronson on the screen, listens to Sinatra records and reads Harold Robins. His favourite music is any instrumental number with plenty of violin accompaniment.

Best game

Stuy reckons that his best game was against Arsenal in the European Cup quarter-final in March 1972. His worst was in Spain recently in a tournament in which Spartak Trnava beat Ajax 5-3. Since then he has been dropped from the team.

It remains to be seen whether Stuy, whose contract ends in 1975, can recover and regain his place. This could lift him towards the star quality of the others in the team. Thus 1973-74 is going to be a crucial one for Stuy.

Eusebio injured

Eusebio, who finished top goalscorer in Europe last season with 40 goals, is going to be hard pushed to equal this feat in 1973-74. Recently in a friendly against the Brazilian club America of Rio he sustained a knee injury which will make him miss the opening games of the season.

Now 31, Eusebio is due to have his benefit match on September 25 and he is trying to get fit for this game in which leading players from all parts of the world will participate.

Eusebio's best season in Portuguese football came in 1967-68 when he scored 42 goals. He needs only four more goals in League games to reach 300.

Chile have proposed that their play-off matches with the USSR in the World Cup should be held in Moscow on September 9 and in Santiago on September 18.

If the teams remain level on points and goal aggregate after two legs a third match should be played in Buenos Aires on September 26.

Stefan Kovacs who left Ajax Amsterdam to take over the managership of the French national team is under no illusions about his new role.

He said: "We have to consider what is the illness of French football. All my life I have had to face serious problems and until now I have always overcome them."

Well, there is always a first time for everything . . .

The initial Europe v South America football match to mark the first World Football Day will be played on October 31 in Barcelona, Spain.

FIFA said that proceeds from the match would be placed in various charities and a FIFA fund to help in cases of disasters.

Doubtless the occasion will be celebrated traditionally in England with demonstrations by hooligans who will run riot on their local grounds.

PHILIP EVANS notes the team changes in Italy

PRATI ROMA STILL

Causio of Juventus.

IN many ways this year's transfer action in Italy was the antithesis of the duck on the castle moat, whose virtue always was that though he might be paddling like hell underneath, he remained calm as can be up top.

All the noise, all the Machiavellian scheming this year, seems to have produced little enough action. True, Prati moved from Milan to Roma; but Riva stayed put, Savoldi stayed put, Anastasi stayed put, Mazzola stayed put, Chimaglia and Pulici stayed put. Strikers are as gold-dust, to be treasured and not sold.

Prati, however, was—and the affair can never be seen as anything but tight in argument on both sides. He is a player of great verve and skill, capable of scoring good goals (such things, *pace* many British managers, do exist: means are important as well as ends) and but for Riva would be an almost automatic choice in the Italian national side.

Against this has to be admitted the fact that over the past two seasons he has played in only thirty-seven league games, has scored only twelve goals, and has often looked far from fit. It isn't a question of spare tyres and double chins—rather one of seemingly delicate mechanisms at knee and ankle. He has become too often a physiotherapist's dream and Milan's medical nightmare.

Sustained menace

In the event Buticchi, the president of Milan, decided to sell him for a sum of 675 millions of lire, payable over three years. Rocco and Rivera objected, and the latter in particular will hope to emulate his goal-scoring feats of last year; for without Prati, Milan are down to Bigon and Chiarugi—the former ponderous on heavy grounds, the latter never capable of sustained menace.

Internazionale may also have goalscoring problems. Their two bright acquisitions during the summer were Fedele, the Bolognese full back; and Scala, the Fiorentina midfield player—all dash and drive and very capable of making a place for himself in the national squad now that he is closer to the centre of things.

But Boninsegna is being left to do a lot of work, and although Mazzola may play in a more advanced role this season, the fact remains that Boninsegna needs good service from the wings, hard crosses behind the string of *catenaccio* defenders. They say that Magistrelli may be converted to the role of provider; but Magistrelli in my book has too often been a lumbering central attacker of the panzer variety, not a touch artist of speed and skill.

Juventus are the third of the major clubs to be comparatively untouched as regards personnel. They have bought Gentile, a defender from Varese; and Musiello, a central attacker from Atalanta. The former will help to fill any gaps left by the aging of Salvadore and the latter will be available (together with Altafini) to supplement the attacking play of Causio, Anastasi and Bettega.

It is to this last that Juventus will look most tenderly, for Bettega was scoring a lot of goals before a chest infection drove him out of the game eighteen months ago, and throughout last

MOVES TO BUT RIVA IS AT CAGLIARI

season he looked more the willing convalescent than the fully-fit performer.

Fiorentina are undoubtedly the club who made the news in transfer terms. They bought from Lanerossi Vicenza a gentleman called Walter Speggiorin—reputedly for five hundred million lire, but for the fact that the Tuscan club used the deal to clear its cupboards. They sold Scala to Inter, Clerici and Orlandini to Napoli and will go into the new season with a team that looks fascinating on paper.

Beatrice, a robust full back comes from Ternana; which allows the mighty Galdiolo to revert to his more effective position of stopper. Antognoni, Merlo and De Sisti (now withdrawn to wing-half, in old parlance) will do the scheming; and despite all that money for Speggiorin, I won't be surprised if a youngster called Desolati scores a few goals for the club.

Market terms

Apropos Antogoni, it may be worth noting that his valuation in market terms was set at close to 750 millions of lire when Fiorentina bought the half of him they didn't already own. Nils Liedholm (alas, unemployed) is on record as saying that the boy is worth half as much again, and I agree. A wonderful player.

Torino and Lazio did damn-all, prefering to rely on proven players; and the same can go for Bologna, with one exception. It seems very likely that Bulgarelli's fine skills will be used in a more withdrawn position and that the charging of the midfield motor will be entrusted to Carlo Sartori, the ex-Manchester United player, qualified to play in Italy because of his parentage and his place of birth (Calderzone). Could be interesting to see how he modifies his style to suit the playing climate.

Gagliari hung onto Riva—and this was another affair of the heart. There is little doubt but that the club should have sold the player, if you look at the thing in dispassionate terms. He is nearly twenty-nine now, Juventus would have loved him, if only for the European Cup; and some of the offers being made for his services seemed highly tempting.

The Sardinian club kept faith with its supporters, for Riva has become a talisman to the whole island; and given that no money was available, will have to make do with what it already has. The only facial novelty is Butti, a young midfield player from Bari. Now it's up to Chiapella to shake the kaleidoscope; and Brugnera could well be the key figure.

Napoli have Clerici; they also took from Fiorentina Orlandini, a good midfield destroyer who also knows how to pass a ball. From Palermo, they have bought Troja—who, like Clerici, is no babe in swaddling clothes; and to help run the midfield with Juliano, they have acquired Mascheroni of Varese—a player of delicate gifts, ill-suited to rough treatment. We shall see; but at least Clerici can put a ball in the back of the net now and again, and is always good value.

Roma have Prati; they also have Domenghini, aging but never a nonentity. After that spot of hanky-panky a couple of years ago (naughty parties on the Costa Smeralda and so forth), the lad has now married—arguably *the* event of the transfer season. And Scopigno knows how to treat the Domenghinis of the world.

Roma made a great mistake, I feel however, in letting Bet go to Verona in exchange for Batistoni. Bet is a potential international in the vast majority of league games, a tall strong player of intelligence and authority, who could well cause unhappy afternoons for many of the more vaunted of strikers in the glamorous teams. Verona also have Madde back, a midfield player who has been around the clubs but who is far from silly; Pace from Palermo to play on the wing; and Belli, the Milan goalkeeper, who could prove to be a bit of bargain.

Vicenza read like an ex-Fiorentina team. Ferrante, Berni and Vitali we all know about; and now they're joined by Macchi, Sormani, Longoni and Perego. Vicenza have come out well from the market and may provide some interesting football. Ferrante alone is worth the price of a ticket, a fine player of great charm and intelligence.

Sampdoria start the season with a headache, having been penalised three points before a game has been played for offering bribes to fellow sufferers to lose games at the tailend of last season. They have Improta from Napoli—a lovely touch-player in midfield; they have the brawny Cristin back after a miserable season with Mantova in the *Serie B*; and they have dear old Maraschi, who's been around since Noah. You won't find many bookmakers outside Genoa to give you odds on Samp going down at the end of the season.

Of the new teams, look at Genoa. They have Rosato from Milan; they have Corso from Internazionale. I won't go into the latter affair at much length, since little imagination is required to guess at the motives behind the move. A lot of flak is flying between Genoa and Milan, in particular between Corso on the one hand, Mazzola and Herrera on the other.

Just for the record: Corso made his debut for Inter on November 23, 1958 at the age of seventeen, played fifteen seasons for them, turned out 414 times and scored 75 goals. I hope he does well in his new abode. Rosato will worry more about his knees then about his heart; and Genoa have also bought Maggioni, a burly fullback from Atalanta.

Cesena have Cera from Cagliari, likeable man and good player; the younger Savoldi from Juventus; and Zaniboni from the same source, a defensive player who never quite plays to the limit of his talent. And Foggia? They have Golin and Villa, both never quite up to scratch at Milan; they have Salvori of Roma, a vigorous player in midfield; and they have Liguori, who never quite recovered after smashing his leg against Benetti. He used to be a very fine player, and one hopes he's on the way to some sort of fitness.

A final, poignant note. Helmut Haller's retreat to Augsburg (where he was born and bred) whittles to seven the number of those players who are not Italian—Altafini (Juventus); Cane (Napoli); Clerici (Napoli); Morrone (Foggia); Nene (Cagliari); Schnellinger (Milan); and Sormani (Lanerossi Vicenza). Since the war more than three hundred "stranieri" and "oriundi" have played in the Italian league—which helps to make a neat point.

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Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified

WORLD CUP

South American zone preliminary group 1

JUNE 21

Colombia (1) 1 (Ortiz)
Ecuador (0) 1 (Segrera o.g.)

Colombia: Zape, Segovia, Ortega, Rodriguez, Caicedo, Segrera, Brand, Ortiz, Diaz (Soto), Moron, Campaz.
Ecuador: Mandez, Pelaez, Portilla, Camacho, Ortiz, Bolanos, Cabezas (Manot), Noriega, Guime Lasso, Estupinan.

JUNE 24

Colombia (0) 0
Uruguay (0) 0

Colombia: Zape, Segovia, Rodriguez, Ortega, Gonzalez, Segrera, Brand (Soto), Caicedo (Andrade), Ortiz, Campaz, Moron. (Campaz sent off 22m.)
Uruguay: Santos, Ubina, Olivera, Masnik, Soryez, Esparrago, Cardaccio, Maneiro, Cubilla, Rey (Morena), Corbo (Bertocchi). (Olivera sent off 2m.)

JUNE 28

Ecuador (1) 1 (Munoz pen.)
Colombia (0) 1 (Ortiz pen.)

Ecuador: Mendez, Palaez, Portilla, Noriega, Ortiz, Camacho, Bolanos, Munoz, Lasso, Estupinan, Guime.
Colombia: Zape, Segovia, Ortega, Rodriguez, Moncada, Segrera, Ortiz, Soto, Diaz, Gonzalez, Moron.

JULY 1

Ecuador (1) 1 (Estupinan)
Uruguay (1) 2 (Cubilla, Morena)

Ecuador: Mendez, Pelaez, Portilla, Noriega, Tombar, Bolanos, Camacho, Lasso, Polo Carrera, Estupinan, Guime.
Uruguay: Santos, Ubina, Masnik, De Simone, Soryez, Esparrago, Cardaccio, Maneiro, Cubilla, Rey, Bertocchi (Morena).

JULY 5

Uruguay (0) 0
Colombia (0) 1 (Ortiz)

Uruguay: Santos, Ubina, Masnik, De Simone, Soryez, Cardaccio, Esparrago, Bertocchi, Cubilla, Morena, Corbo (Milar).
Colombia: Zape, Segovia, Ortiz, Rodriguez, Moncada, Segrera, Gonzalez, Soto, Diaz, Ortiz, Moron (Andrade).

JULY 8

Uruguay (3) 4 (Morena 2, Cubilla, Milar)
Ecuador (0) 0

Uruguay: Santos, Ubina, Masnik, De Simone, Soryez, Cardaccio, Esparrago, Bertocchi, Cubilla, Morena, Milar.
Ecuador: Mendez, Perez (Tobar), Portilla (Lasso), Noriega, Pelaez, Camacho, Bolanos, Guerrero, Estupinan, Tenorio, Guime.

INTERNATIONAL

JULY 2

Peru (1) 3 (Bailetti 2, Ramirez)
Colombia (0) 1 (Moron)

INTER-AMERICAN CUP

between South American and CONCACAF champions 1972

Peru: Uribe, Navarro, Manzo (Chumpitaz), De la Torre, Carbonell, Challe, Mayorga (Sotil), Miffin, Munante, Bailetti, Ramirez.
Colombia: Zape (Delaquz), Segovia, Ortega, Rodriguez, Caicedo, Brand (Ortiz), Andrade, Gonzalez, Moron, Campaz, Mejia (Diaz).

JUNE 18
(1st leg)

Olimpia (Honduras) (0) 1 (Brad)
Independiente (Argentina) (1) 2 (Semenewicz, Maglioni)

Olimpia: Santini, Selevin, Matamoros, Garcia, Lopez, Mendoza, Ferreira (Pa), Espinal, Gomez, Sanso (Mejia), Brand.
Independiente: Santoro, Commisso, Lopez (Garisto), Sa, Pavoni, Martinez, Raimondo, Semenewicz, Balbuena, Maglioni, Mendoza.

JUNE 20
(2nd leg)

Olimpia (Honduras) (0) 0
Independiente (Argentina) (1) 2 (Maglioni, Balbuena)

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Veracruz (Mexico) 2 Uruguay select. 2 (June 18); Paraguay select. 1 Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) 0 (July 5); Peru select. 4 Nacional (Urugauay) 1 (July 7); Fluminense de Santana (Brazil) 0 Paraguay select. 0 (July 9).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
URUGUAY	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Colombia	4	1	3	-	3	2	5
Ecuador	4	-	1	2	3	8	2

GOAL POWER IS LACKING

● Continued from page 41

good as before and, it seems, is also getting past his best. That is why Martinez generally plays in the position now, but he is an unlikely starter in a more defensive set-up, depending on the circumstances.

Semenewicz (24) and Galvan (22) are fighters who run themselves off their feet, mark closely and break up attacks here, there and everywhere, but the former organisation, which enabled Independiente to gain mid-field control in most matches, is lacking.

Up front Independiente has changed little. They still find the way to goal difficult—now more so without Pastoriza. Erratic winger Balbuena and Maglioni (27)—not a great player but with an eye for goal—make up the "attack" and often, when Independiente plays defensively, only the latter stays up. Maglioni is frequently replaced in the middle by Giachello (23) who is the same type of player. Both are joint leading scorers of the team in league games so far this season—with eight goals each.

When playing a more attacking game—which is not often—Independiente bring in either of two youngsters—hard-shooting Bertoni (18) for winger Balbuena, or Bochini (19), one of the most promising and intelligent newcomers in Argentine soccer, on the other wing. The latter has set quite a few Libertadores Cup matches alight.

As usual, however, Independiente's attacking scheme depends more on opponents' mistakes than their own ability to break through.

Independiente have slightly strengthened their pool of players since last year with buys such as wingers Mendoza and Merlo (who are in and out of the first team) apart from the above mentioned two youngsters and Montero Castillo, but they have overloaded some positions and still need to strengthen others.

National team coach, Omar Sivori, proved my point perhaps when he called up only one Independiente player (Galvan) for the 24-man squad preparing for the World Cup preliminary games.

● Continued from page 29

He said there were a lot of rumours about players being sold, and he would like us to know first. Picchi, he said, was not sure of playing again and it had cost Varese a lot of money to make an impression in First Division football. Signor Borghi was a businessman, and he was selling Vastola, Cresci and myself to keep Varese out of the red.

But before I had even kicked a ball with Juventus, I was picked for the Azzuri in the finals of the European Championship. It would have been bad enough playing in any ordinary international, but to start in such an important competition with a world record transfer fee around my neck was almost too much for me. I felt terrible in the two final games against Yugoslavia; you know I missed an open goal in each and wanted the ground to swallow me up. To be frank, I played dreadfully each time, yet when I scored with my one good shot I became a hero.

Juventus paid me £23,000 to sign for them, an enormous sum if you forget my transfer for a moment. They said they had been determined to get me after the way I played against them.

What of the future? To play in the European Cup Final has been one ambition which I have fulfilled. If I am lucky enough, I will be there again next summer. I hope by then, perhaps a few people will have heard of Pierino Anastasi as a footballer, rather than a figure in the record books. I am trying hard not to be just the most expensive player in the world, but also the best!

Results...dates...tables...re

WM 74

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Second Preliminary Round

Guinea 1, Morocco 1
Morocco 2, Guinea 0

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Second Preliminary Round

Tunisia 1, Ivory Coast 1
Ivory Coast 2, Tunisia 1

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

Kenya 3, Mauritius 1
Mauritius 2, Kenya 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Second Preliminary Round

1. 4.73 Ethiopia 0, Zambia 0
15. 4.73 Zambia v. Ethiopia

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Second Preliminary Round

Nigeria 2, Ghana 3
Ghana 1, Nigeria 1

Group 11

4. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

10.12.72. Mauritius 1, Kenya 3
17.12.72. Kenya 2, Mauritius 2
4. 2.73. Cameroon 0, Zaire 1
25. 2.73. Zaire 0, Cameroon 1
27. 2.73. Zaire 2, Cameroon 0

ASIA

Sub-Group B1

4. 3.73 Australia 1, New Zealand 1
11. 3.73 Australia 3, Iraq 1
Indonesia 1, New Zealand 1
13. 3.73 Iraq 2, New Zealand 0
Australia 2, Indonesia 1
16. 3.73 Iraq 1, Indonesia 1
Australia 3, New Zealand 3
18. 3.73 Indonesia 1, New Zealand 0
Australia 0, Iraq 0
21. 3.73 Iraq 3, Indonesia 2
24. 3.73 Iraq 4, New Zealand 0
Australia 6, Indonesia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	3	3	0	15	6	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
New Zealand	6	0	3	3	5	12	3

Asia Sub-Group B2

4. 5.73 North Korea 0, Iran 0
4. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 North Korea 1, Syria 1
8. 5.73 Iran 1, Syria 0
8. 5.73 Kuwait 0, North Korea 0
11. 5.73 North Korea 1, Iran 2
11. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 North Korea 3, Syria 0
15. 5.73 Syria 1, Iran 0
15. 5.73 Kuwait 2, North Korea 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	6	4	1	1	7	3	8
Syria	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
North Korea	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Kuwait	6	1	1	4	4	8	3

Asia Sub Group A

Group A

Hong Kong (0) 1, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (2) 4, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (0) 0, Hong Kong (0) 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Japan	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
South Vietnam	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group B

South Korea (0) 4, Thailand (0) 0
Israel (1) 6, Thailand (0) 0
Malaysia (0) 2, Thailand (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Israel (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Malaysia (0) 0
Israel (2) 3, Malaysia (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	2	1	0	9	0	5
South Korea	3	1	2	0	4	0	4
Malaysia	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Thailand	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

Semi finals

South Korea (1) 3, Hong Kong (1) 1
Israel (0) 1, Japan (0) 0*

Final

South Korea (0) 1, Israel (0) 0*
* *after extra time*

Esparrago scores Uruguay's first goal against Ecuador in the World Cup match at Quilto. Uruguay won 2–1.

esults...dates...tables...results

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0 v. Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary 2, Austria 2
24. 5.73 Sweden 3, Austria 2
13. 6.73 Hungary 3 v. Sweden 3
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Hungary	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Sweden	5	2	2	1	13	7	6
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	18	0

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy 0, v. Turkey 0
25. 2.73 Turkey 0, v. Italy 1
31. 3.73 Italy 5, Luxembourg 0
8. 4.73 Luxembourg 0, Switzerland 1
9. 5.73 Switzerland 0, Turkey 0
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	3	2	0	10	0	8
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
Turkey	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Luxembourg	5	1	0	4	2	13	2

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0 v. Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland v. Norway
22. 8.73 Netherlands v. Iceland
29. 8.73 Iceland v. Netherlands (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	3	1	0	10	0	7
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	9	0	3
Norway	3	1	0	2	4	12	2
Iceland	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany 2, Albania 0
6. 5.73 Albania 1, Rumania 4
27. 5.73 Rumania 1, East Germany 0
6. 6.73 Finland 1, East Germany 5
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	4	3	1	0	8	2	7
East Germany	4	3	0	1	11	2	6
Finland	4	1	1	2	3	11	3
Albania	4	0	0	4	1	9	0

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0 v. England 1
24. 1.73 England 1 v. Wales 1
28. 3.73 Wales 2, Poland 0
6. 6.73 Poland 2, England 0
26. 9.73 Poland v. Wales
17.10.73 England v. Poland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
England	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Poland	2	1	0	1	2	2	2

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0 v. Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus 1, v. Northern Ireland 0
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1
2. 5.73 Bulgaria 2, Portugal 1
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland 3, Cyprus 0
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
Portugal	4	2	1	1	7	3	5
N. Ireland	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
Cyprus	5	1	0	4	1	12	2

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1 v. Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece 2, Spain 3
21. 2.73 Spain 3, Greece 1
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Greece	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2, Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark 1, Czechoslovakia 1
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia 6, Denmark 0
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechoslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1	0	7	1	3
Denmark	4	0	1	3	2	15	1

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2 v. France 1
13. 5.73 USSR 1 Eire 0
19. 5.73 France 1, Eire 1
26. 5.73 USSR 2, France 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Eire	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
France	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia 1, Ecuador 1
24. 6.73 Colombia 0, Uruguay 0
28. 6.73 Ecuador 1, Colombia 1
1. 7.73 Ecuador 1, Uruguay 2
5. 7.73 Uruguay 0, Colombia 1
8. 7.73 Uruguay 4, Ecuador 0

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia v. Paraguay
9. 9.73 Argentina v. Bolivia
16. 9.73 Paraguay v. Argentina
23. 9.73 Bolivia v. Argentina
30. 9.73 Paraguay v. Bolivia
7.10.73 Argentina v. Paraguay

Group 3

29. 4.73 Peru 2, Chile 0
3. 5.73 Chile 2, Peru 0
15. 8.73 Chile 2, Peru 1
(Venezuela withdrew)

... league tables ...

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ararat Erevan ..	19	11	2	6	33	16	24
Dynamo Kiev ..	19	9	4	6	28	15	22
CSKA Moscow..	19	8	5	6	24	23	21
Dynamo Moscow	19	8	4	7	28	19	20
Dnjepr	19	7	5	7	24	23	19
Donezk	19	8	3	8	18	20	19
Voroschilovgrad	19	9	0	10	24	15	18
Dynamo Tbilisi..	19	7	4	8	21	18	18
Spartak Moscow	19	8	1	10	24	22	17
Kairat Alma Ata	19	6	5	8	17	25	17
Torpedo Moscow	19	8	0	11	21	21	16
Zenit Leningrad	19	5	3	11	21	20	13
Karpaty Lvov ..	19	4	3	12	20	35	11
Tasehkent	19	4	1	14	21	29	9
Dynamo Minsk..	19	4	1	14	12	21	9
SKA Rostov	19	2	3	14	10	24	7

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Viking	14	11	3	0	24	5	25
Rosenborg	13	6	6	1	19	8	18
Stromsgodset ..	14	6	3	5	20	16	15
Hamarkam	14	5	5	4	16	15	15
Start	14	5	4	5	13	13	14
Mjondalen	14	5	4	5	13	16	14
Frigg	14	4	5	5	16	17	13
Skeid	13	3	6	4	10	9	12
Raufoss	14	4	4	6	11	18	12
Lyn	14	3	4	7	12	19	10
Brann	14	3	3	8	15	22	9
Fredrikstad	14	2	5	7	12	23	9

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atvidaberg	14	11	3	0	32	12	25
Oester Vaxjo	14	7	5	2	24	12	19
Landskrona	14	7	3	4	16	14	17
Malmo	14	7	2	5	19	19	16
GAIS	14	7	1	6	17	15	15
Hammarby	14	5	3	6	17	21	13
Sirius	14	5	3	6	14	23	13
IFK Norrkoping	14	2	8	4	22	23	12
Saab	14	4	4	6	17	20	12
AIK Stockholm	14	4	3	7	17	18	11
Orebro	14	2	7	5	14	21	11
Elfsborg	14	3	4	7	17	20	10
Orgryte	14	3	4	7	17	26	10

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Bonus Pts
Lyon	2	2	0	0	6	1	1	5
Reims	2	1	1	0	7	3	2	5
St Etienne ..	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	4
Sochaux	2	1	1	0	5	2	1	4
Nimes	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	3
Rennes	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	3
Nantes	2	1	1	0	3	2	0	3
Lens	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
Monaco	2	0	1	1	4	5	1	2
Sedan	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
Angers	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2
Strasbourg ..	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Nancy	2	1	0	1	2	4	0	2
Troyes.....	2	0	1	1	3	4	0	1
Metz	2	0	1	1	1	3	0	1
Bastia	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	1
Marseille	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	1
Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	1	4	0	1
Paris	2	0	1	1	1	5	0	1
Nice	2	0	0	2	2	5	0	0

MORE NEXT MONTH

WORLD CUP CHART

Match Timetable for the FIFA World Cup 1974, with Kick-off Times

1st Final Round	*Opening Match*	*1st Match Day*		*2nd Match Day*		*3rd Match Day*		
Date	Thursday 13.6.	Friday 14.6.	Saturday 15.6.	Tuesday 18.6.	Wednesday 19.6.	Saturday 22.6.	Sunday 23.6.	
Group I								
Berlin		*16.00* 2:1		*19.30* 1:3		*16.00* 4:1		Winner = A1
Hamburg		*19.30* 3:4		*16.00* 4:2		*19.30* 3:2		Second = B5
Group II								
Dortmund		*19.30* 7:8						
Gelsenkirchen				*19.30* 5:7		*16.00* 7:6		Winner = B6
Frankfurt	*17.00* 6:5			*19.30* 8:6		*16.00* 8:5		Second = A2
Group III								
Dortmund					*19.30* 9:11		*16.00* 12:9	
Düsseldorf			*16.00* 11:12				*16.00* 11:10	Winner = A3
Hannover			*16.00* 10:9		*19.30* 12:10			Second = B7
Group IV								
Munich			*18.00* 14:13		*19.30* 13:15		*16.00* 16:13	Winner = B8
Stuttgart			*18.00* 15:16		*19.30* 16:14		*16.00* 15:14	Second = A4

2nd Final Round	*1st Match Day*	*2nd Match Day*	*3rd Match Day*		
Date	Wednesday 26.6.	Sunday 30.6.	Wednesday 3.7.		
Kick-off time	*19.30*	*16.00*	*19.30*		
Group A					
Dortmund			A3:A2		
Gelsenkirchen	A3:A4	A1:A3*	A4:A1*	Winner	A
Hannover	A2:A1*	A4:A2		Second	A
Group B					
Düsseldorf	B6:B5*	B5:B7*	B7:B6		
Frankfurt		B8:B6	B8:B5*	Winner	B
Stuttgart	B7:B8			Second	B

(N.B.: If Germany FR qualifies for the Second Final Round (as A1 or B5), the matches of the German team marked * will begin as follows: on 26.6. at 16.00, on 30.6. at 19.30 and on 3.7. at 16.00)

3rd Place Match:

Munich, Saturday, 6.7., *16.00* Second A v. Second B

Final:

Munich, Sunday, 7.7., *16.00* Winner A v. Winner B

World SOCCER
EVERTON 1973·74

PRESTON N.E. 1973·74